Preparatory Lessons for Earth’s Final Storms

Second Half 2021

Advent Pilgrims Fellowship
SABBATH SCHOOL LESSONS
PREPARATORY LESSONS for EARTH’S FINAL STORMS

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SECTION 1

UNDERSTANDING THE STORMS
Introduction

As Seventh-day Adventists in modern times, we have been conditioned into a futuristic mentality. We think that the last day events are yet ahead of us, that the latter rain is yet to come, and that the loud cry of the third angel has not yet begun. We wait for fulfilment of prophecies which already are taking place around us.

It is the design of this lesson to make us aware that the storms of the last days have already been blowing upon this planet; that, in fact, we in our present generations have been born into them. Already the great majority of professing Christians have crumbled under the pressures of the storms of the last days. We are not ignorant of the Biblical identification of the commencement of the time of the end way back in 1798. We understand the event of 1844, which launched the hour of God’s judgement. The writings of Sister White have clearly chronicled the unfolding of the atrocities and wickedness of the last days which commenced in her lifetime. The counsels in her writings were given to prepare her generation for the perils of the last days just before them.

So where do we stand today? Are we not in the very perils they were to prepare themselves and their children for? Those children were the great-grandparents of the post-Second World War generation. Are we not living in the storms of the final days, and are we prepared for worse to come if we are not even able to stand faithfully in the present challenges?

Let us study diligently these lessons to identify the storms of these closing events in which we live, in order to repent and recover ourselves from where we have fallen, and, yes, become enlightened to prepare ourselves for the approaching relentless storms which will crush the majority of earth’s inhabitants.
May the words of Jeremiah 12:5 provoke us to rise to the challenges before us in a more determined connection with the God who alone can give us strength and victory:

“If thou hast run with the footmen, and they have wearied thee, then how canst thou contend with horses? and if in the land of peace, wherein thou trustedst, they wearied thee, then how wilt thou do in the swelling of Jordan?”
Lesson 1

Heeding End-Time Heralds

And he said, Behold, I will make thee know what shall be in the last end of the indignation: for at the time appointed the end shall be. Daniel 8:19

OBJECTIVES

- To locate the commencement of the time of the end.
- To identify the agencies proclaiming end-time detail.
- To recognise the specific agency by which God would give detailed help.

TIME OF THE END

1. Where in the Bible are we to find revelations concerning the time of the end? Daniel 12:4, 9, 13

“The time has come for Daniel to stand in his lot. The time has come for the light given him to go to the world as never before. If those for whom the Lord has done so much will walk in the light, their knowledge of Christ and the prophecies relating to Him will be greatly increased as they near the close of this earth's history.” —S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 4, p. 1174.

2. What time does Inspiration point to by which the time of the end can be located and the book of Daniel to become unsealed? Revelation 11:2, 3; 13:4, 5; 10:1, 2, 5, 6
“The periods here mentioned—"forty and two months," and "a thousand two hundred and threescore days"—are the same, alike representing the time in which the church of Christ was to suffer oppression from Rome. The 1260 years of papal supremacy began in A.D. 538, and would therefore terminate in 1798. At that time a French army entered Rome and made the pope a prisoner, and he died in exile. Though a new pope was soon afterward elected, the papal hierarchy has never since been able to wield the power which it before possessed.”

“The apostle Paul warned the church not to look for the coming of Christ in his day. "That day shall not come," he says, "except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed." Not till after the great apostasy, and the long period of the reign of the "man of sin," can we look for the advent of our Lord. The "man of sin," which is also styled "the mystery of iniquity," "the son of perdition," and "that wicked," represents the papacy, which, as foretold in prophecy, was to maintain its supremacy for 1260 years. This period ended in 1798. The coming of Christ could not take place before that time. Paul covers with his caution the whole of the Christian dispensation down to the year 1798. It is this side of that time that the message of Christ's second coming is to be proclaimed.

“No such message has ever been given in past ages. Paul, as we have seen, did not preach it; he pointed his brethren into the then far-distant future for the coming of the Lord. The Reformers did not proclaim it. Martin Luther placed the judgment about three hundred years in the future from his day. But since 1798 the book of Daniel has been unsealed, knowledge of the prophecies has increased, and many have proclaimed the solemn message of the judgment near.” —The Great Controversy, pp. 266, 356.

3. Did the events of nature coincide with 1798 and 1844 as heralds of the time of the end? Matthew 24:29, 30; Revelation 6:12-14
“These signs were witnessed before the opening of the nineteenth century. In fulfillment of this prophecy there occurred, in the year 1755, the most terrible earthquake that has ever been recorded. Though commonly known as the earthquake of Lisbon, it extended to the greater part of Europe, Africa, and America. It was felt in Greenland, in the West Indies, in the island of Madeira, in Norway and Sweden, Great Britain and Ireland. It pervaded an extent of not less than four million square miles. In Africa the shock was almost as severe as in Europe. A great part of Algiers was destroyed; and a short distance from Morocco, a village containing eight or ten thousand inhabitants was swallowed up. A vast wave swept over the coast of Spain and Africa engulfing cities and causing great destruction.”

“Christ had bidden His people watch for the signs of His advent and rejoice as they should behold the tokens of their coming King. "When these things begin to come to pass," He said, "then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh." He pointed His followers to the budding trees of spring, and said: "When they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand. So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand." Luke 21:28, 30, 31.”

“In 1833, two years after Miller began to present in public the evidences of Christ's soon coming, the last of the signs appeared which were promised by the Saviour as tokens of His second advent. Said Jesus: "The stars shall fall from heaven." Matthew 24:29. And John in the Revelation declared, as he beheld in vision the scenes that should herald the day of God: "The stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind." Revelation 6:13.” —The Great Controversy, pp. 304, 308, 333.

**LIVING AGENCIES PROCLAIM**

**4. Having seen from the previous questions that Gabriel through Daniel announced the time of the end, did this concur from 1798 to 1844 with living preachers on earth? Matthew 24:44-46; Revelation 14:6-14**
“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.

“Like the great Reformation of the sixteenth century, the advent movement appeared in different countries of Christendom at the same time. In both Europe and America men of faith and prayer were led to the study of the prophecies, and, tracing down the inspired record, they saw convincing evidence that the end of all things was at hand. In different lands there were isolated bodies of Christians who, solely by the study of the Scriptures, arrived at the belief that the Saviour's advent was near.” —The Great Controversy, p. 357.

5. Knowing of the Millerite movement of 1833 to 1844 coming to its great disappointment, was it a fulfilment of prophecy?

Revelation 10:8-10

“The angel's position, with one foot on the sea, the other on the land, signifies the wide extent of the proclamation of the message. It will cross the broad waters and be proclaimed in other countries, even to all the world. The comprehension of truth, the glad reception of the message, is represented in the eating of the little book. The truth in regard to the time of the advent of our Lord was a precious message to our souls.” —S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 7, p. 971.

“Five hundred years before, the Lord had declared by the prophet Zechariah: "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: He is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an

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ass." Zechariah 9:9. Had the disciples realized that Christ was going to judgment and to death, they could not have fulfilled this prophecy.

“In like manner Miller and his associates fulfilled prophecy and gave a message which Inspiration had foretold should be given to the world, but which they could not have given had they fully understood the prophecies pointing out their disappointment, and presenting another message to be preached to all nations before the Lord should come. The first and second angels' messages were given at the right time and accomplished the work which God designed to accomplish by them.” —The Great Controversy, p. 405.

6. What was in the prophecy to those disappointed ones? Revelation 10:11

“This coming is foretold also by the prophet Malachi: "The Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to His temple, even the Messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, He shall come, saith the Lord of hosts." Malachi 3:1. The coming of the Lord to His temple was sudden, unexpected, to His people. They were not looking for Him there. They expected Him to come to earth, "in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel." 2 Thessalonians 1:8.

“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.

DETAILED HELP FROM GOD

7. Does prophecy identify the help God would send His people to prepare them to meet the final storm of earth? Revelation 7:1-3; Malachi 4:5
“In this age, just prior to the second coming of Christ in the clouds of heaven, God calls for men who will prepare a people to stand in the great day of the Lord. Just such a work as that which John did, is to be carried on in these last days. The Lord is giving messages to His people, through the instruments He has chosen, and He would have all heed the admonitions and warnings He sends. The message preceding the public ministry of Christ was, Repent, publicans and sinners; repent, Pharisees and Sadducees; "for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Our message is not to be one of peace and safety. As a people who believe in Christ's soon appearing, we have a definite message to bear, --"Prepare to meet thy God."

“In this time of well-nigh universal apostasy, God calls upon His messengers to proclaim His law in the spirit and power of Elias. As John the Baptist, in preparing a people for Christ's first advent, called their attention to the Ten Commandments, so we are to give, with no uncertain sound, the message: "Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come." With the earnestness that characterized Elijah the prophet and John the Baptist, we are to strive to prepare the way for Christ's second advent.” —S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 4, p. 1184.

8. Among the messengers doing the work of Elijah, did God raise a specific messenger like unto Elijah? Luke 1:17

“As a prophet, John was "to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." In preparing the way for Christ's first advent, he was a representative of those who are to prepare a people for our Lord's second coming.” —The Desire of Ages, p. 101.

“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.

9. With what kind of detail did God announce the raising of this messenger? 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.

“"Your success is in your simplicity. As soon as you depart from this, and fashion your testimony to meet the minds of any, your power is gone. Almost everything in this age is glossed and unreal. The world abounds in testimonies given to please and charm for the moment, and to exalt self. Your testimony is of a different character. It is to come down to the minutiae of life, keeping the feeble faith from dying, and pressing home upon believers the necessity of shining as lights in the world.”” —Testimonies for the Church Vol. 2, p. 608.

**MEDITATION**

“God gave me the light contained in The Great Controversy and Patriarchs and Prophets and this light was needed to arouse the people to prepare for the great day of God, which is just before us. These books contain God's direct appeal to the people. Thus He is speaking to the people in stirring words, urging them to make ready for His coming. The light God has given in these books should not be concealed.” —Colporteur Ministry, p. 129.
Understanding the Seriousness of the Hour

And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. Romans 13:11

OBJECTIVES

• To learn a lesson from the time of Noah.
• To scan the history of the past via Bible prophecy to show present imminence.
• To reflect upon scriptural accounts of the intensity of our time of the end.

IN THE DAYS OF NOAH

1. How did Jesus arouse us, living in the last days, to our opportunity to avoid destruction. Matthew 24:37-39

“The nature of man unrenewed by grace is not changed in our day from what it was in Noah's time. Christ has said a similar state of things would be prior to his second coming as existed before the flood. In the days of Noah men followed the imagination of their own hearts, and the result was unrestrained crime and wickedness. The same state of things will exist in this age of the world. But will not some of the learned, the honored of the world, accept the message of warning in these last days? Will the world as a majority perish in the general impending ruin? How was it in Noah's day? as it was then Christ has said it should be. Of that vast population there was only eight persons who believed the message of Noah and
obeyed God's word. In the world today the majority choose the broad road to death because the way of life is too narrow for them to walk in with their dishonesty, avarice, pride and iniquity. Now, as in the days of Noah, the overwhelming majority are opposed to the saving truth and are fascinated with lying fables.” —The Signs of the Times, January 3, 1878.

“If we look at the picture of the days that were before the flood, and then turn our attention to the habits and practices of society today, we shall see that our earth is fast ripening for the plagues of the last days. Men have corrupted the earth by their sinful course of action.” —Counsels on Stewardship, p. 135.

2. Did God specify a period of time during which He would give them opportunity to avert their doom? Genesis 6:5, 6, 3

“God granted them one hundred and twenty years of probation, and during that time preached to them through Methuselah, Noah, and many others of His servants. Had they listened to the testimony of these faithful witnesses, had they repented and returned to their loyalty, God would not have destroyed them.”

“God determined to purify the world by a flood; but in mercy and love He gave the antediluvians a probation of one hundred and twenty years. During this time, while the ark was building, the voices of Noah, Methuselah, and many others were heard in warning and entreaty, and every blow struck on the ark was a warning message.”

“"For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil." Christ was engaged in this warfare in Noah's day. It was His voice that spoke to the inhabitants of the old world in messages of warning, reproof, and invitation. He gave the people a probation of one hundred and twenty years, in which they might have repented. But they chose the deceptions of Satan, and perished in the waters of the Flood.” —S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 1, p. 1088.
3. Is God of the same mind toward earth’s inhabitants at this time?
2 Peter 3:6-10

“God is long-suffering, not willing that any should perish; but His forbearance has a limit, and when the boundary is past, there is no second probation. His wrath will go forth and He will destroy without remedy.”
—S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 7, p. 946.

**CLOSING BOUNDARY OF MERCY**

4. Following Christ’s rejection and crucifixion by the Jews, does Inspiration suggest that the term “last days” was applicable?
Hebrews 1:1, 2; 1 Peter 4:7; 1 John 2:18

5. Although Christ’s second advent was anticipated by early church believers, what was the counsel given by Inspiration regarding the extension of time before that event? 2 Thessalonians 2:1-4

“The apostle Paul warned the church not to look for the coming of Christ in his day. "That day shall not come," he says, "except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed." 2 Thessalonians 2:3. Not till after the great apostasy, and the long period of the reign of the "man of sin," can we look for the advent of our Lord. The "man of sin," which is also styled "the mystery of iniquity," "the son of perdition," and "that wicked," represents the papacy, which, as foretold in prophecy, was to maintain its supremacy for 1260 years. This period ended in 1798. The coming of Christ could not take place before that time. Paul covers with
his caution the whole of the Christian dispensation down to the year 1798. It is this side of that time that the message of Christ's second coming is to be proclaimed.” —The Great Controversy, p. 356.

6. How clearly does Scripture connect the conclusion of the tribulation of the 1,260 years with the event of Christ’s second advent and its associated challenges? Matthew 24:29-31; Revelation 6:12-17

“The revelator thus describes the first of the signs to precede the second advent: "There was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood." Revelation 6:12.

“These signs were witnessed before the opening of the nineteenth century. In fulfillment of this prophecy there occurred, in the year 1755, the most terrible earthquake that has ever been recorded. Though commonly known as the earthquake of Lisbon, it extended to the greater part of Europe, Africa, and America.”

“Twenty-five years later appeared the next sign mentioned in the prophecy--the darkening of the sun and moon. What rendered this more striking was the fact that the time of its fulfillment had been definitely pointed out. In the Saviour's conversation with His disciples upon Olivet, after describing the long period of trial for the church,—the 1260 years of papal persecution, concerning which He had promised that the tribulation should be shortened,—He thus mentioned certain events to precede His coming, and fixed the time when the first of these should be witnessed: "In those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light." Mark 13:24. The 1260 days, or years, terminated in 1798. A quarter of a century earlier, persecution had almost wholly ceased. Following this persecution, according to the words of Christ, the sun was to be darkened. On the 19th of May, 1780, this prophecy was fulfilled.” —The Great Controversy, pp. 304, 306.
SERIOUS CONSIDERATIONS

7. Considering that directly after those three signs, the heavens rolled back and the Son of God is seen coming, can we discern the period intervening from 1798? Observe Revelation 7 between the 6th and the 7th seal, i.e. Revelation 8:1

“Everything in the world is in an unsettled state. The nations are angry, and great preparations for war are being made. Nation is plotting against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. The great day of God is hasting greatly. But although the nations are mustering their forces for war and bloodshed, the command to the angels is still in force, that they hold the four winds until the servants of God are sealed in their foreheads.

“As yet the four winds are held until the servants of God shall be sealed in their foreheads. Then the powers of earth will marshal their forces for the last great battle. How carefully we should improve the little remaining period of our probation!

“Minds that have been given up to loose thought need to change. . . . The thoughts must be centered upon God. Now is the time to put forth earnest effort to overcome the natural tendencies of the carnal heart.” —Maranatha, p. 243.

8. In consideration of the fact that we live in the time of over 220 years since 1798, are we aware of the imminence of final events? Romans 13:11; Hosea 9:7 (first part)

“The present is a time of overwhelming interest to all living. Rulers and statesmen, men who occupy positions of trust and authority, thinking men and women of all classes, have their attention fixed upon the events taking place about us. They are watching the relations that exist among the nations. They observe the intensity that is taking possession of every
earthly element, and they recognize that something great and decisive is about to take place,—that the world is on the verge of a stupendous crisis.”
—*Evangelism*, p. 703.
Present Complacency Amidst the Storms

For when they shall say, Peace and safety: then sudden destruction cometh upon them. 1 Thessalonians 5:3

OBJECTIVES

• To examine Inspiration as it reveals the releasing of end-time storms.
• To realise that present generations have been born into storm chaos.
• To become aware of our danger to not recognise closing events.

END TIME PERILS REVEALED

1. At what point in time were the four angels of Revelation seven commissioned to restrain the winds of strife about to burst upon earth? Revelation 7:1-3

“I saw four angels who had a work to do on the earth, and were on their way to accomplish it. Jesus was clothed with priestly garments. He gazed in pity on the remnant, then raised His hands, and with a voice of deep pity cried, "My blood, Father, My blood, My blood, My blood!" Then I saw an exceeding bright light come from God, who sat upon the great white throne, and was shed all about Jesus. Then I saw an angel with a commission from Jesus, swiftly flying to the four angels who had a work to do on the earth, and waving something up and down in his hand, and crying with a loud voice, "Hold! Hold! Hold! Hold! Hold! until the servants of God are sealed in their foreheads."” —Early Writings, p. 38.
“In 1848 occurred one of the greatest upheavals in the national affairs of Europe that had been for many centuries. Decided changes were made in some of the leading nations. In a brief period of time, many of the crowned heads of Europe submitted themselves to the people. It looked as if universal war was inevitable. In the midst of the turmoil and strife, came a sudden calm. No man could assign any reason for it, but the student of prophecy knew that the angels were holding the winds until the servants of God could be sealed in their foreheads.” —Stephen N. Haskell, *The Cross and its Shadow*, p. 363.

2. If in 1848 the winds of strife were already threatening, how does Inspiration manifest further detail as to the storms released and restrained ever since? 2 Timothy 3:1-3; Revelation 15:1

“I want to tell you another thing. The vials of God's wrath and the sprinkling of them are already coming. What is the matter that we do not discern it? It is because the light of truth does not affect the heart. The Spirit of God is being withdrawn from the world.

“You hear of calamities by land and by sea, and they are constantly increasing. What is the matter?” —Selected Messages Book 2, p. 51.

3. What can we already behold in fulfilment of prophecy describing the events of the angels releasing the winds of strife? Joel 2:30, 31; Isaiah 9:5

“The nations of the world are eager for conflict; but they are held in check by the angels. When this restraining power is removed, there will come a time of trouble and anguish. Deadly instruments of warfare will be invented. Vessels, with their living cargo, will be entombed in the great deep. All who have not the spirit of truth will unite under the leadership of satanic agencies. But they are to be kept under control till the time shall come for the great battle of Armageddon.” —Maranatha, p. 257.
“I was shown the inhabitants of the earth in the utmost confusion. War, bloodshed, privation, want, famine, and pestilence were abroad in the land. As these things surrounded God's people, they began to press together, and to cast aside their little difficulties. Self-dignity no longer controlled them; deep humility took its place. Suffering, perplexity, and privation caused reason to resume its throne, and the passionate and unreasonable man became sane, and acted with discretion and wisdom.

“My attention was then called from the scene. There seemed to be a little time of peace. Once more the inhabitants of the earth were presented before me; and again everything was in the utmost confusion. Strife, war, and bloodshed, with famine and pestilence, raged everywhere. Other nations were engaged in this war and confusion. War caused famine. Want and bloodshed caused pestilence. And then men's hearts failed them for fear, "and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth."”

—Testimonies for the Church Vol. 1, p. 268.

**BORN INTO CHAOS**

4. **If the First and Second World Wars with atomic warfare and human chaos are past prophesied events, are we aware that we are born into a war zone with its post-traumatic stress disorders? Joel 2:30**

“The disasters of the past year in America [1889] have caused hearts to tremble, and similar disasters have fallen upon other countries. Already sprinklings from the vials of God's wrath have been let fall upon land and sea, affecting the elements of the air. The causes of these unusual conditions are being searched for, but in vain.

“God has not restrained the powers of darkness from carrying forward their deadly work of vitiating the air, one of the sources of life and nutrition, with a deadly miasma. Not only is vegetable life affected, but man suffers from pestilences. Cholera and unexplainable diseases have broken out. Diphtheria, raging to a limited extent, is gathering its harvest of precious little ones, and seems to be almost uncontrollable.
“These things are the result of drops from the vials of God's wrath being sprinkled on the earth, and are but faint representations of what will be in the near future.”

“We are standing on the threshold of great and solemn events. Prophecies are fulfilling. Strange and eventful history is being recorded in the books of heaven--events which it was declared should shortly precede the great day of God. Everything in the world is in an unsettled state. The nations are angry, and great preparations for war are being made. Nation is plotting against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. The great day of God is hastening greatly. But although the nations are mustering their forces for war and bloodshed, the command to the angels is still in force that they hold the four winds until the servants of God are sealed in their foreheads.”

—Manuscript Releases Vol. 3, pp. 312, 313.

5. **Have we become conditioned by these prevailing calamities?**

   Revelation 3:17; 2 Peter 3:3, 4

“I want to tell you another thing. The vials of God's wrath and the sprinkling of them are already coming. What is the matter that we do not discern it? It is because the light of truth does not affect the heart. The Spirit of God is being withdrawn from the world.”

“And see the storms and tempests. Satan is working in the atmosphere; he is poisoning the atmosphere, and here we are dependent upon God for our lives—our present and eternal life. And being in the position that we are, we need to be wide awake, wholly devoted, wholly converted, wholly consecrated to God. But we seem to sit as though we were paralyzed. God of heaven, wake upon us.”

—Selected Messages Book 2, pp. 51, 52.
UNAWARE

6. While it is true that calamities have affected this world all along, have they intensified to an unaware populace?
   1 Thessalonians 5:2, 3; Matthew 24:48-50

“The word of God is not silent in regard to this momentous time, and it will be understood by all who do not resist His Spirit by determining not to hear, not to receive, not to obey. The Lord's messages of light have been before us for years; but there have been influences working indirectly to make of no effect the warnings coming through the Sentinel and the Testimonies, and through other instrumentalities which the Lord sends to His people. Much more might have been done with the Sentinel if these counterinfluences had not been at work to hinder it. Even though nothing may be said against it, actions reveal the indifference that is felt. And so long as the watchmen do not give the trumpet a certain sound, the people are not alarmed and are not on the lookout for danger.”

“When the watchman, seeing the sword coming, gives the trumpet a certain sound, the people along the line will echo the warning, and all will have opportunity to make ready for the conflict. But too often the leader has stood hesitating, seeming to say: "Let us not be in too great haste. There may be a mistake. We must be careful not to raise a false alarm." The very hesitancy and uncertainty on his part is crying: "Peace and safety.' Do not get excited. Be not alarmed.” —Testimonies for the Church Vol. 5, pp. 719, 715.

7. Due to our danger to become complacent amidst end-time storm, are the words of warning by Jesus especially relevant to us at this time? Matthew 24:42-44; Isaiah 30:12, 13; Mark 13:35-37
“Transgression has almost reached its limit. Confusion fills the world, and a great terror is soon to come upon human beings. The end is very near. We who know the truth should be preparing for what is soon to break upon the world as an overwhelming surprise.”

“Are we as a people asleep?” —Testimonies for the Church Vol. 8, p. 28.

**MEDITATION**

“Satan works through the elements also to garner his harvest of unprepared souls.”

“In accidents and calamities by sea and by land, in great conflagrations, in fierce tornadoes and terrific hailstorms, in tempests, floods, cyclones, tidal waves, and earthquakes, in every place and in a thousand forms, Satan is exercising his power. He sweeps away the ripening harvest, and famine and distress follow. He imparts to the air a deadly taint, and thousands perish by the pestilence. These visitations are to become more and more frequent and disastrous.

“The power and malice of Satan and his host might justly alarm us, were it not that we may find shelter and deliverance in the superior power of our Redeemer. . . . Those who follow Christ are ever safe under His watchcare. Angels that excel in strength are sent from heaven to protect them. The wicked one cannot break through the guard which God has stationed about His people.” —The Faith I Live By, p. 328.
Approaching Storm Clouds

The great day of the LORD is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly, even the voice of the day of the LORD: the mighty man shall cry there bitterly. Zephaniah 1:14

OBJECTIVES

• To reflect further on the material of lesson three.
• To itemise the elements of the approaching storms.
• To acknowledge the reality that these storms are upon us to intensify climacterically.

TIMES OF ADVENTIST PIONEERS

1. What was established by the pioneers of Seventh-day Adventism by which we can now find our bearings of present events?
   Psalm 11:3; Deuteronomy 32:7

“What influence is it that would lead men at this stage of our history to work in an underhanded, powerful way to tear down the foundation of our faith,—the foundation that was laid at the beginning of our work by prayerful study of the word and by revelation? Upon this foundation we have been building for the past fifty years. Do you wonder that when I see the beginning of a work that would remove some of the pillars of our faith, I have something to say? I must obey the command, "Meet it!"”

—Testimonies for the Church Containing Letters to Physicians and Ministers Instruction to Seventh-day Adventists, p. 58.
2. Was there a purpose behind the establishment of these pillars of our faith? Revelation 7:1-4

“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.

3. If after 1902 the shaking and judgements of God had already begun, where do we stand today? Mark 13:29; Zephaniah 1:14

“Are we to wait until the fulfilment of the prophecies of the end before we say anything concerning them? Of what value will our words be then?” —The Review and Herald, July 28, 1904.

“"We hear the footsteps of an approaching God to punish the world for their iniquity." "The end of time is close upon us. The world's inhabitants are being bound in bundles to be burned. Shall you be bound up with the tares?" "Do you realize that every year thousands and thousands and ten times ten thousand souls are perishing, dying in their sins? The plagues and judgments of God are already doing their work, and souls are going to ruin because the light of truth has not been flashed upon their pathway."” —The General Conference Bulletin, April 1, 1897.
“It is the boast of the present age that never before did men possess so
great facilities for the acquirement of knowledge, or manifest so general an
interest in education. Yet despite this vaunted progress, there exists an
unparalleled spirit of insubordination and recklessness in the rising
generation; mental and moral degeneracy are well-nigh universal. Popular
education does not remedy the evil. The lax discipline in many institutions
of learning has nearly destroyed their usefulness, and in some cases
rendered them a curse rather than a blessing.” —Fundamentals of Christian
Education, p. 64.

“At the same time anarchy is seeking to sweep away all law, not only
divine, but human. The centralizing of wealth and power; the vast
combinations for the enriching of the few at the expense of the many; the
combinations of the poorer classes for the defense of their interests and
claims; the spirit of unrest, of riot and bloodshed; the world-wide
dissemination of the same teachings that led to the French Revolution--all
are tending to involve the whole world in a struggle similar to that which
convulsed France.” —Education, p. 228.

5. How much more intensely are the storms of nature and political
strife raging around us ever since the First and Second World

“We hear now of earthquakes in divers places, of fires, of tempests, of
disasters by sea and land, of pestilence, of famine. What weight do these
signs have upon you? This is only the beginning of what shall be. The
description of the day of God is given through John by the Revelator. The
cry of the terror-stricken myriads has fallen upon the ear of John. "The great day of His wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?" The apostle himself was awed and overwhelmed.

“If such scenes as this are to come, such tremendous judgments on a guilty world, where will be the refuge for God's people? How will they be sheltered until the indignation be overpast? John sees the elements of nature—earthquake, tempest, and political strife—represented as being held by four angels. These winds are under control until God gives the word to let them go.” —Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers, p. 444.

CLIMACTIC INTENSITY COMING

6. As we so look back from the times of the pioneers of Seventh-day Adventism to our present time, are we able to see the ever-intensifying storms which are heading to imminent global destruction? Jeremiah 25:30-37

“Brethren and sisters, do we believe the word of God, or not? Do we not see the signs fulfilling all around us? Do we realize that we are standing on the verge of eternity, that we have no time to make crooked paths and blundering movements, involving the worth of the soul? When the last call shall be made, Behold the bridegroom cometh; go ye forth to meet him, shall we represent the foolish virgins, who had no oil in their vessels with their lamps.” —Manuscript Releases Vol. 7, p. 148.

“The day is at hand. For the lessons to be learned, the work to be done, the transformation of character to be effected, the time remaining is but too brief a span.” —Education, p. 184.

7. How will many be found in that final climactic storm, if in Sister White’s day the time remaining was “too brief a span”? Zephaniah 1:14-17; Revelation 16:15
8. Is there still hope for us if we pick ourselves up and apply last-day messages to our souls now? Romans 9:27, 28

“As I saw what we must be in order to inherit glory, and then saw how much Jesus had suffered to obtain for us so rich an inheritance, I prayed that we might be baptized into Christ's sufferings, that we might not shrink at trials, but bear them with patience and joy, knowing what Jesus had suffered that we through His poverty and sufferings might be made rich. Said the angel, "Deny self; ye must step fast." Some of us have had time to get the truth and to advance step by step, and every step we have taken has given us strength to take the next. But now time is almost finished, and what we have been years learning, they will have to learn in a few months. They will also have much to unlearn and much to learn again. Those who would not receive the mark of the beast and his image when the decree goes forth, must have decision now to say, Nay, we will not regard the institution of the beast.” —Early Writings, p. 67.
Harvest—from Cause to Effect

Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. Galatians 6:7

OBJECTIVES

• To learn to reason from cause to effect.
• To understand our response to Christ’s or Satan’s sowing.
• To recognise the time of harvest and its manifestations.

CAUSE TO EFFECT

1. Does Inspiration appeal to our intelligence to reason from cause to effect? Proverbs 26:2

“We need a connection with divine power, that we may have an increase of clear light and an understanding of how to reason from cause to effect. We need to have the powers of the understanding cultivated, by our being partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.” —The Upward Look, p. 53.

“We should know for ourselves what constitutes Christianity, what is truth, what is the faith that we have received, what are the Bible rules--the rules given us from the highest authority. There are many who believe, without a reason on which to base their faith, without sufficient evidence as to the truth of the matter. If an idea is presented that harmonizes with their own preconceived opinions, they are all ready to accept it. They do not reason from cause to effect. Their faith has no genuine foundation, and in the time
of trial they will find that they have built upon the sand.” —Mind, Character, and Personality Vol. 2, p. 535.

2. Is this kind of reasoning associated with seed time and harvest? Galatians 6:7, 8

“Pharaoh sowed obstinacy, and he reaped obstinacy. He himself put this seed into the soil. There was no more need for God by some new power to interfere with its growth, than there is for Him to interfere with the growth of a grain of corn. All that is required is that a seed shall be left to germinate and spring up to bring forth fruit after its kind. The harvest reveals the kind of seed that has been sown.” —Conflict and Courage, p. 88.

“Dear young friends, that which you sow, you will also reap. Now is the sowing time for you. What will the harvest be? What are you sowing? Every word you utter, every act you perform, is a seed which will bear good or evil fruit and will result in joy or sorrow to the sower. As is the seed sown, so will be the crop. God has given you great light and many privileges. After this light has been given, after your dangers have been plainly presented before you, the responsibility becomes yours. The manner in which you treat the light that God gives you will turn the scale for happiness or woe. You are shaping your destinies for yourselves.” —Counsels for the Church, p. 184.

WHEAT OR TARES

3. How does Jesus address the initial process of sowing? Matthew 13:24-26, 37, 38

“"The sower soweth the word." Christ came to sow the world with truth. Ever since the fall of man, Satan has been sowing the seeds of error. It was
by a lie that he first gained control over men, and thus he still works to overthrow God’s kingdom in the earth and to bring men under his power. A sower from a higher world, Christ came to sow the seeds of truth. He who had stood in the councils of God, who had dwelt in the innermost sanctuary of the Eternal, could bring to men the pure principles of truth. Ever since the fall of man, Christ had been the Revealer of truth to the world. By Him the incorruptible seed, “the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever,” is communicated to men. 1 Peter 1:23. In that first promise spoken to our fallen race in Eden, Christ was sowing the gospel seed. But it is to His personal ministry among men and to the work which He thus established that the parable of the sower especially applies.” —A Call To Stand Apart, p. 19.

4. What part does the human play in the reception of the seed sown by Christ or Satan? Mark 4:14-20; Joshua 24:15

“All should be intelligent in regard to the agency by which the soul is destroyed. It is not because of any decree that God has sent out against men or women. He does not make them spiritually blind. God gives sufficient light and evidence to enable them to distinguish truth from error. But He does not force them to receive truth. He leaves them free to choose the good or to choose the evil. If people resist evidence that is sufficient to guide their judgment in the right direction and choose evil once, they will do this more readily the second time. The third time they will still more eagerly withdraw from God and choose to stand on the side of Satan. And in this course they will continue until they are confirmed in evil and believe the lie they have cherished as truth.” —Christ Triumphant, p. 103.

5. How will the choice we make affect the harvest? Galatians 6:8

“Thousands are passing through this experience, weighing Christ against the world, and many choose the world. Every invitation refused makes the
heart harder. Seeds of resistance are sown that will bring a harvest of resistance.” —The Youth Instructor, May 27, 1897.

**TIME OF HARVEST**

6. Have the storms of the last days anything to do with the harvest time? Matthew 13:39 (last half); Revelation 14:15-20

“I then saw the third angel. Said my accompanying angel, "Fearful is his work. Awful is his mission. He is the angel that is to select the wheat from the tares, and seal, or bind, the wheat for the heavenly garner. These things should engross the whole mind, the whole attention."” —Early Writings, p. 118.

7. Reflecting on lesson three, questions one and two, are we able to discern that from 1848 the harvest experiences are manifest? Luke 21:25, 26

“I was shown the inhabitants of the earth in the utmost confusion. War, bloodshed, privation, want, famine, and pestilence were abroad in the land. As these things surrounded God's people, they began to press together, and to cast aside their little difficulties. Self-dignity no longer controlled them; deep humility took its place. Suffering, perplexity, and privation caused reason to resume its throne, and the passionate and unreasonable man became sane, and acted with discretion and wisdom.

“My attention was then called from the scene. There seemed to be a little time of peace. Once more the inhabitants of the earth were presented before me; and again everything was in the utmost confusion. Strife, war, and bloodshed, with famine and pestilence, raged everywhere. Other nations were engaged in this war and confusion. War caused famine. Want and bloodshed caused pestilence. And then men's hearts failed them for
fear, "and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth."
—Testimonies for the Church Vol. 1, p. 268.

8. What has been seen in the ranks of professed Seventh-day Adventists in this harvest time? Matthew 24:45-50; Galatians 5:15

“That there will be alienation and disunion, I do not doubt, for this is the very work Satan is determined shall be, but which cannot be if the professed believers will heed the words of Jesus Christ.

“This seems to be a seed after the same order of the Minneapolis meeting that is dropped into the soil already prepared for it which will produce a harvest of its kind. But we must look unto Jesus.” — The Ellen G. White 1888 Materials, p. 1000.

“The harvest is ours, to reap that which we have sown. If you sow distrust, envy, jealousy, self-love, bitterness of thought and feelings, this harvest you will be sure to reap. This will be a sowing of dragon's teeth to reap the same.” — Reflecting Christ, p. 300.

9. In this time of harvest, is there counsel for us not to suffer under the failures of the past? Hebrews 12:12-15; Colossians 4:5

“You will have to make a clean track behind you by thorough confession. You need a thorough conversion--a transformation of self by the renewing of your mind. Your self-esteem must be overcome. You must learn to esteem others better than yourself. Your exalted opinion of your own acquirements must be given up, and you must obtain a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.
“There is but one way out, and that is by the way of confession. Your only hope is in falling on the Rock and being broken to pieces; if you do not, it will surely fall upon you and grind you to powder. You can now right your wrongs; you can now redeem the past. By a life of goodness and true humility you can yet walk with acceptance before God in your family. May the Lord help you, in view of the judgment, to work as for your life.”

Understanding Satan’s Intensity

Woe to the inhabiters of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time. Revelation 12:12

OBJECTIVES

• To examine the shortness of time in which we live.
• To recognise Satan’s view of these times.
• To behold Satan’s final efforts to subvert God’s people.

A SHORT TIME LEFT

1. After Satan had succeeded to deceive our first parents, what sense of security did he harbour in the light of his position?
   Job 1:6, 7; John 14:30

“Not only man but the earth had by sin come under the power of the wicked one. . . . At his creation Adam was placed in dominion over the earth. But by yielding to temptation, he was brought under the power of Satan. "Of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage" (2 Peter 2:19). When man became Satan's captive, the dominion which he held, passed to his conqueror. Thus Satan became "the god of this world" (2 Corinthians 4:4). He had usurped that dominion over the earth which had been originally given to Adam.” —God's Amazing Grace, p. 41.

“After tempting man to sin, Satan claimed the earth as his, and styled himself the prince of this world. Having conformed to his own nature the
father and mother of our race, he thought to establish here his empire. He declared that men had chosen him as their sovereign. Through his control of men, he held dominion over the world.” —The Desire of Ages, p. 114.

2. For how long did Satan feel his power as the prince or god of this world? 2 Corinthians 4:4 (first half); Isaiah 14:16, 17

“Adam and Eve in Eden were placed under most favorable circumstances. . . They were without the condemnation of sin. . . The Author of their existence was their teacher. But they fell beneath the power and temptations of the artful foe. Four thousand years had Satan been at work against the government of God, and he had obtained strength and experience from determined practice. Fallen men had not the advantages of Adam in Eden. They had been separating from God for four thousand years. The wisdom to understand, and power to resist, the temptations of Satan had become less and less, until Satan seemed to reign triumphant in the earth. Appetite and passion, the love of the world and presumptuous sins, were the great branches of evil out of which every species of . . . corruption grew.” —Maranatha, p. 224.

“For four thousand years he had been warring against the government of God, and had lost none of his skill or power to tempt and deceive.” —Selected Messages Book 1, p. 279.


“By causing the death of the Sovereign of heaven, Satan defeated his own purposes. The death of the Son of God made the death of Satan unavoidable. Satan was allowed to go on until his administration was laid open before the worlds unfallen and before the heavenly universe. By
shedding the blood of the Son of God, he uprooted himself [from sympathy], and was seen by all to be a liar, a thief, and a murderer.” —Christ Triumphant, p. 14.

4. Following his defeat by the sacrifice of Jesus, did Satan realise something? Revelation 12:5, 7, 8-12

“Satan, knowing that his time is short, has come down with great power, and is working with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish. Every agent that he can employ he is using to prevent souls from coming to the light. The victories we gain over self and sin are gained at the expense of the enemy, and he will not let us enjoy the blessings of God without making determined efforts to resist us.” —The Youth Instructor, May 17, 1900.

INTENSIFYING TIMES

5. Having created great woe through the Dark Ages, how does Satan approach the last days that are upon us? Revelation 12:12, 17

“In this time of trial we need to be encouraged and comforted by one another. The temptations of Satan are greater now than ever before, for he knows that his time is short and that very soon every case will be decided, either for life or for death. It is no time now to sink down beneath discouragement and trial; we must bear up under all our afflictions and trust wholly in the Almighty God of Jacob. The Lord has shown me that His grace is sufficient for all our trials; and although they are greater than ever before, yet if we trust wholly in God, we can overcome every temptation and through His grace come off victorious.” —Early Writings, p. 46.
6. What are the words of inspiration describing Satan’s intensity?
1 Peter 5:8

“Satan well knows the material with which he has to deal in the human heart. He knows—for he has studied with fiendish intensity for thousands of years—the points most easily assailed in every character; and through successive generations he has wrought to overthrow the strongest men, princes in Israel, by the same temptations that were so successful at Baalpeor. All along through the ages there are strewn wrecks of character that have been stranded upon the rocks of sensual indulgence. As we approach the close of time, as the people of God stand upon the borders of the heavenly Canaan, Satan will, as of old, redouble his efforts to prevent them from entering the goodly land.” —Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 457.

SATAN’S FINAL EFFORTS

7. Is Satan alone in his work, and how does he affect the storms of the last days? Revelation 12:7-9

“Through spiritualism, Satan appears as a benefactor of the race, healing the diseases of the people and professing to present a new and more exalted system of religious faith; but at the same time he works as a destroyer. His temptations are leading multitudes to ruin. Intemperance dethrones reason; sensual indulgence, strife, and bloodshed follow. Satan delights in war, for it excites the worst passions of the soul and then sweeps into eternity its victims steeped in vice and blood. It is his object to incite the nations to war against one another; for he can thus divert the minds of the people from the work of preparation to stand in the day of God.”

“Even now he is at work. In accidents and calamities by sea and by land, in great conflagrations, in fierce tornadoes and terrific hailstorms, in tempests, floods, cyclones, tidal waves, and earthquakes, in every place
and in a thousand forms, Satan is exercising his power. He sweeps away the ripening harvest, and famine and distress follow. He imparts to the air a deadly taint, and thousands perish by the pestilence. These visitations are to become more and more frequent and disastrous.” —Counsels on Health, pp. 460, 461.

8. In his effort to subvert God’s faithful people, what counsel with his angels does Inspiration reveal? Matthew 24:24; 2 Corinthians 11:13-15

“As the people of God approach the perils of the last days, Satan holds earnest consultation with his angels as to the most successful plan of overthrowing their faith. He sees that the popular churches are already lulled to sleep by his deceptive power. By pleasing sophistry and lying wonders he can continue to hold them under his control. Therefore he directs his angels to lay their snares especially for those who are looking for the second advent of Christ and endeavoring to keep all the commandments of God.”

"I will have upon the ground, as my agents, men holding false doctrines mingled with just enough truth to deceive souls. I will also have unbelieving ones present who will express doubts in regard to the Lord's messages of warning to His church. Should the people read and believe these admonitions, we could have little hope of overcoming them. But if we can divert their attention from these warnings, they will remain ignorant of our power and cunning, and we shall secure them in our ranks at last.”

"We must cause distraction and division. We must destroy their anxiety for their own souls, and lead them to criticize, to judge, and to accuse and condemn one another, and to cherish selfishness and enmity. For these sins, God banished us from His presence; and all who follow our example will meet a similar fate.” —Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers, pp. 472, 475.
9. Do we have any assurance by which we may counteract all Satan’s efforts? Isaiah 59:19 (last half); Matthew 24:12, 13

“Determined to efface the image of God in man. Satan works with an intensity of effort to hide God from view. Not openly does he work, but secretly, mingling error with truth, so seeking to bring confusion and distress. But in proportionate power God works to counteract Satan's plans and to bring to light his hidden purposes. When the enemy has seemed to be gaining a signal victory over righteousness, God has been working with mighty power in behalf of his people.” —The Review and Herald, May 13, 1902.

“If we are self-confident or self-righteous we shall be left to fall under the power of temptation; but if we look to Jesus and trust in Him we call to our aid a power that has conquered the foe on the field of battle, and with every temptation He will make a way of escape. When Satan comes in like a flood, we must meet his temptations with the sword of the Spirit, and Jesus will be our helper and will lift up for us a standard against him. The father of lies quakes and trembles when the truth of God, in burning power, is thrown in his face.” —Testimonies for the Church Vol. 5, p. 425.
Satan’s Subtle Warfare

Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils. 1 Timothy 4:1

OBJECTIVES

• To be informed of the subtlety of Satan working in these times.
• To identify Satan’s subtle tactics and devices.
• To be equipped to meet and conquer Satan’s hidden agenda.

SATAN’S UNDERCOVER WORK

1. What does Jesus call Satan? John 8:44

“He is the father of lies, and he weaves a net of falsehood in which he binds you with cords of lies to his service. The more intelligent you are, the more attractive, the harder he will work that he may persuade you to lay your talents at his feet, and aid him to accomplish his ends in alluring others under his black banner. If he can only keep the mind infatuated, he will do it. Paul inquires, "Who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth?" Satan is the bewitcher, and he has wrought, that Christ may be expelled from the soul, and that he himself may be there enthroned.” —Sons and Daughters of God, p. 336.

2. As the father of lies, what metaphoric characteristics does he display? 1 Peter 5:8
“He does not wait for his prey to be brought to him. He goes about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. But does he always roar? No; when it serves his purpose best, he sinks his voice to the softest whisper, and, wrapped in garments of light, appears as an angel from heaven. Men have so little knowledge of his wiles, so little understanding of the mystery of iniquity, that the enemy out-generals them almost every time.” —Sermons and Talks Vol. 2, p. 7.

3. As God’s faithful church is metaphorically identified by a dove, how is Satan pictured in reference to a dove?

   Song of Solomon 6:8, 9; 2:14

“Have you ever watched a hawk in pursuit of a timid dove? Instinct has taught the dove that in order for the hawk to seize his prey, he must gain a loftier flight than his victim. So she rises higher and still higher in the blue dome of heaven, ever pursued by the hawk, which is seeking to obtain the advantage. But in vain. The dove is safe as long as she allows nothing to stop her in her flight, or draw her earthward; but let her once falter, and take a lower flight, and her watchful enemy will swoop down upon his victim. Again and again have we watched this scene with almost breathless interest, all our sympathies with the little dove. How sad we should have felt to see it fall a victim to the cruel hawk!

“We have before us a warfare,—a lifelong conflict with Satan and his seductive temptations. The enemy will use every argument, every deception, to entangle the soul; and in order to win the crown of life, we must put forth earnest, persevering effort. We must not lay off the armor or leave the battlefield until we have gained the victory, and can triumph in our Redeemer. As long as we continue to keep our eyes fixed upon the Author and Finisher of our faith, we shall be safe. But our affections must be placed upon things above, not on things of the earth. By faith we must rise higher and still higher in the attainment of the graces of Christ. By daily contemplating His matchless charms, we must grow more and more into His glorious image. While we thus live in communion with Heaven, Satan will lay his nets for us in vain.” —Messages to Young People, pp. 103, 104.
SATAN'S SUBTLETY

4. Do we recall the devious way in which Satan works?
   2 Corinthians 11:14, 15

“But does he always roar? No; when it serves his purpose best, he sinks his voice to the softest whisper, and, wrapped in garments of light, appears as an angel from heaven.” —Sermons and Talks Vol. 2, p. 7.

“Elymas was not a man of education, yet he was peculiarly fitted to do the work of Satan. Those who preach the truth of God will meet the wily foe in many different forms. Sometimes it will be in the person of learned, but more often of ignorant, men, whom Satan has trained to be successful instruments to deceive souls.” —The Acts of the Apostles, p. 169.

5. As an angel of light, how deviously will he fabricate his suggestions to protect the church from questionable members? do we recall who he is? Revelation 12:10

“Satan is at work, even among the people of God, to cause disunion and difference of opinion. There is biting and devouring among them, and Satan designs that they shall be consumed one of another. Selfishness, corruption, and evil of every kind is taking a firm hold upon hearts.” —Sermons and Talks Vol. 2, p. 4.

"'We must cause distraction and division. We must destroy their anxiety for their own souls, and lead them to criticize, to judge, and to accuse and condemn one another, and to cherish selfishness and enmity. For these sins, God banished us from His presence; and all who follow our example will meet a similar fate.'” —Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers, p. 475.

6. As the accuser of the brethren, where will he lead the thoughts of conscientious-minded believers? Psalms 73:12-16; 42:5
“When the mind dwells upon self, it is turned away from Christ, the source of strength and life. Hence it is Satan's constant effort to keep the attention diverted from the Saviour and thus prevent the union and communion of the soul with Christ. The pleasures of the world, life's cares and perplexities and sorrows, the faults of others, or your own faults and imperfections--to any or all of these he will seek to divert the mind. Do not be misled by his devices. Many who are really conscientious, and who desire to live for God, he too often leads to dwell upon their own faults and weaknesses, and thus by separating them from Christ he hopes to gain the victory.” —Steps to Christ, p. 71.

7. Where else can we find the subtle activities of our enemy?
   1 Timothy 4:1

   “In those churches which he can bring under his deceptive power he will make it appear that God's special blessing is poured out; there will be manifest what is thought to be great religious interest. Multitudes will exult that God is working marvelously for them, when the work is that of another spirit. Under a religious guise, Satan will seek to extend his influence over the Christian world.

   “In many of the revivals which have occurred during the last half century, the same influences have been at work, to a greater or less degree, that will be manifest in the more extensive movements of the future. There is an emotional excitement, a mingling of the true with the false, that is well adapted to mislead.” —The Great Controversy, p. 464.

COUNSEL TO OVERCOME

8. What comfort can we find in Scripture regarding our vulnerable state? Zechariah 3:1-5
“Satan stands at the head of all the accusers of the brethren; but when he presents the sins of the people of God, what does the Lord answer? He says, "The Lord rebuke [not Joshua, who is a representative of the tried and chosen people of God, but] thee, O Satan; even the Lord that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: is not this a brand plucked out of the fire? Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and stood before the Angel." Satan had represented the chosen and loyal people of God as being full of defilement and sin. He could depict the particular sins of which they had been guilty. Had he not set the whole confederacy of evil at work to lead them, through his seductive arts, into these very sins? But they had repented, they had accepted the righteousness of Christ. They were therefore standing before God clothed with the garments of Christ's righteousness, and "He answered and spake unto those that stood before Him, saying, Take away the filthy garments from him. And unto him He said, Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment." Every sin of which they had been guilty was forgiven, and they stood before God as chosen and true, as innocent, as perfect, as though they had never sinned.” —Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers, p. 39.

9. Is there counsel given in Scripture by which we may overcome our enemy? Revelation 12:11; James 4:7-10

“We are living in an atmosphere of satanic witchery. The enemy will weave a spell of licentiousness around every soul that is not barricaded by the grace of Christ. Temptations will come; but if we watch against the enemy, and maintain the balance of self-control and purity, the seducing spirits will have no influence over us. Those who do nothing to encourage temptation will have strength to withstand it when it comes; but those who keep themselves in an atmosphere of evil will have only themselves to blame if they are overcome and fall from their steadfastness. In the future, good reasons will be seen for the warnings given regarding seducing spirits. Then will be seen the force of Christ's words, "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect."” —Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, p. 257.
“Let the truths that are the foundation of our faith be kept before the people. Some will depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. They talk science, and the enemy comes in and gives them an abundance of science; but it is not the science of salvation. It is not the science of humility, of consecration, or of the sanctification of the Spirit. We are now to understand what the pillars of our faith are,—the truths that have made us as a people what we are, leading us on step by step.” —Counsels to Writers and Editors, p. 29.
Harvest of Dissension

For they have sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind.
Hosea 8:7

OBJECTIVES

- To continue the research of “what a man soweth, that shall he also reap.”
- To examine the seeds that produce a harvest of discord and strife.
- To explore Inspiration for the revelation of the developments from the seed to the harvest.

GOD’S PROTECTIVE RESTRAINT WITHDRAWN

1. How further does Scripture enlarge the fact that what a man soweth he will reap? Proverbs 22:8 (marginal reading: “and with the rod of his anger he shall be consumed”); Proverbs 1:31, 32

“When Satan wrought through the Roman Church to lead men away from obedience, his agency was concealed, and his work was so disguised that the degradation and misery which resulted were not seen to be the fruit of transgression. And his power was so far counteracted by the working of the Spirit of God that his purposes were prevented from reaching their full fruition. The people did not trace the effect to its cause and discover the source of their miseries. But in the Reign of Terror which followed, the working of cause and effect could be seen by all.”

“But the transgression of a just and righteous law must inevitably result in misery and ruin. Though not visited at once with judgments, the wickedness of men was nevertheless surely working out their doom.
Centuries of apostasy and crime had been treasuring up wrath against the
day of retribution; and when their iniquity was full, the despisers of God
learned too late that it is a fearful thing to have worn out the divine
patience. The restraining Spirit of God, which imposes a check upon the
cruel power of Satan, was in a great measure removed, and he whose only
delight is the wretchedness of men was permitted to work his will. Those
who had chosen the service of rebellion were left to reap its fruits until the
land was filled with crimes too horrible for pen to trace.” —The Great
Controversy, pp. 285, 286.

2. Does Inspiration connect God’s punishment of the wicked with the
fruit of their own sowing? Jeremiah 6:19; Psalms 9:16; 7:14-16

“We cannot know how much we owe to Christ for the peace and protection
which we enjoy. It is the restraining power of God that prevents mankind
from passing fully under the control of Satan. The disobedient and
unthankful have great reason for gratitude for God's mercy and long-
suffering in holding in check the cruel, malignant power of the evil one.
But when men pass the limits of divine forbearance, that restraint is
removed. God does not stand toward the sinner as an executioner of the
sentence against transgression; but He leaves the rejectors of His mercy to
themselves, to reap that which they have sown. Every ray of light rejected,
every warning despised or unheeded, every passion indulged, every
transgression of the law of God, is a seed sown which yields its unfailing
harvest. The Spirit of God, persistently resisted, is at last withdrawn from
the sinner, and then there is left no power to control the evil passions of the
soul, and no protection from the malice and enmity of Satan. The
destruction of Jerusalem is a fearful and solemn warning to all who are
trifling with the offers of divine grace and resisting the pleadings of divine
mercy. Never was there given a more decisive testimony to God's hatred of
sin and to the certain punishment that will fall upon the guilty.” —The Great
Controversy, p. 36.
SEEDS THAT PRODUCE STRIFE

3. What have we learnt from the previous lessons regarding the design of the enemy of our souls? Proverbs 16:28; Matthew 13:38, 39

“"We must cause distraction and division. We must destroy their anxiety for their own souls, and lead them to criticize, to judge, and to accuse and condemn one another, and to cherish selfishness and enmity. For these sins, God banished us from His presence; and all who follow our example will meet a similar fate."" —Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers, p. 475.

“It is the special work of Satan to cause dissension, . . . that the world should be deprived of the most powerful testimony Christians can give it that God has sent His Son to bring into harmony turbulent, proud, envious, jealous, bigoted minds.” —Our High Calling, p. 237.

4. Can we see from the word of Satan what the seeds are that cause strife? Leviticus 19:16; Proverbs 26:20-22

“We think with horror of the cannibal who feasts on the still warm and trembling flesh of his victim; but are the results of even this practice more terrible than are the agony and ruin caused by misrepresenting motive, blackening reputation, dissecting character? Let the children, and the youth as well, learn what God says about these things: "Death and life are in the power of the tongue."

“The spirit of gossip and talebearing is one of Satan's special agencies to sow discord and strife, to separate friends, and to undermine the faith of many in the truthfulness of our positions.” —The Adventist Home, pp. 440, 441.
**SEED TIME TO HARVEST**

5. As the seeds of talebearing, gossip and evilsurmising are indulged, how do they grow to an ultimate harvest? Proverbs 16:27, 28; Hebrews 12:15

“Envy and jealousy loose the blood-hounds of suspicion, and minds that love the sport join in hunting down the fair fame of Christ's ambassadors. An unjust insinuation is started, a conjecture is set afloat; and it gathers strength as it passes from one to another of those who desire it to be true. These evil reports are received with great satisfaction by some who have been reproved for heinous sins or grave defects of character. They smarted under the reproof, and yet did not reform. Now their consciences are eased; they learn that the reprover cannot be trusted; somebody has circulated a damaging report; somebody has brought an accusation. They leave the distasteful work of caring for their own souls and repenting of their own sins, and climb upon the judgment seat to condemn another.” —*The Review and Herald*, August 28, 1883.

6. Is it an easy thing for the development of dissension and strife to take place? Romans 3:9, 10; 7:18-21

“I saw that the very spirit of perjury, that would turn truth into falsehood, good into evil, and innocence into crime, is now active. Satan exults over the condition of God's professed people. While many are neglecting their own souls, they eagerly watch for an opportunity to criticize and condemn others. All have defects of character, and it is not hard to find something that jealousy can interpret to their injury. "Now," say these self-constituted judges, "we have facts. We will fasten upon them an accusation from which they can not clear themselves." They wait for a fitting opportunity and then produce their bundle of gossip and bring forth their tidbits.” —*Testimonies for the Church* Vol. 5, p. 94.
7. Upon getting wind of another’s defects and indulging in thoughts and words to enlarge them, what is the harvest? Hosea 8:7

“As the seed sown produces a harvest, and this in turn is sown, the harvest is multiplied. In our relation to others, this law holds true. Every act, every word, is a seed that will bear fruit. Every deed of thoughtful kindness, of obedience, or of self-denial, will reproduce itself in others, and through them in still others. So every act of envy, malice, or dissension is a seed that will spring up in a "root of bitterness" (Hebrews 12:15), whereby many shall be defiled. And how much larger number will the "many" poison. Thus the sowing of good and evil goes on for time and for eternity.” —Christ’s Object Lessons, p. 85.

“The conflict is to wax fiercer and fiercer. Satan will take the field and personate Christ. He will misrepresent, misapply, and pervert everything he possibly can, to deceive, if possible, the very elect. Even in our day there have been and will continue to be entire families who have once rejoiced in the truth, but who will lose faith because of calumnies and falsehoods brought to them in regard to those whom they have loved and with whom they have had sweet counsel. They opened their hearts to the sowing of tares; the tares sprang up among the wheat; they strengthened; the crop of wheat became less and less; and the precious truth lost its power to them. For a time a false zeal accompanied their new theories, which hardened their hearts against the advocates of truth as did the Jews against Christ.” —Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers, p. 411.

“Evilspeaking is a twofold curse, falling more heavily upon the speaker than upon the hearer. He who scatters the seeds of dissension and strife reaps in his own soul the deadly fruits. How miserable is the talebearer, the surmiser of evil! He is a stranger to true happiness.” —Testimonies for the Church Vol. 5, p. 176.
8. Is there a way to negate the harvest of the whirlwind before it strikes? Joel 2:11-14; James 5:16

“Are we to wait until the fulfilment of the prophecies of the end before we say anything concerning them? Of what value will our words be then? Shall we wait until the judgments fall upon the transgressor before we tell him how to avoid them? Where is our faith in the word of God? Must we see the things foretold come to pass before we will believe what he has said? In clear, distinct rays light has come to us, showing that the great day of the Lord is at hand, "even at the door." Let us read and understand, before it is too late.” —The Review and Herald, July 28, 1904.
The Wisdom of the Wise

*But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. James 3:17*

**OBJECTIVES**

- To explore the wisdom of the wise for the last days.
- To research that wisdom in the study of the parable of the ten virgins.
- To learn how to use that wisdom in the time of the harvest of dissension.

**END TIME WISDOM**

1. In the obtaining of wisdom, is there an associated element to combine? *Proverbs 4:5-9*

“But I know that just as soon as the Holy Spirit shall come upon hearts, there will be unity in voice and understanding; and wisdom will be given us.” —*Manuscript Releases Vol. 5*, p. 372.

“Those who would seek successfully for the hidden treasure must rise to higher pursuits than the things of this world. Their affections and all their capabilities must be consecrated to this search. Men and women of piety and talent catch views of eternal realities, but often they fail to understand, because the things that are seen eclipse the glory of the unseen. By many human wisdom is thought to be higher than the wisdom of the divine Teacher, and God’s lesson book is looked upon as old-fashioned, so much so indeed as to be thought tame and stale. But by those who have been
vivified by the Holy Spirit it is not so regarded. They see the priceless treasure, and would sell all to buy the field that contains it.” —To Be Like Jesus, p. 126.

2. What is specifically written regarding those living during the time of the end? Daniel 12:9, 10, 3; Hosea 14:9

“The remnant people of God, who keep His commandments, will understand the word spoken by Daniel, "Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand"” —This Day With God, p. 84.

3. How does God qualify the understanding so essential for these last days? Jeremiah 9:23, 24

“This is the most precious reproof and encouragement, the most important lesson for every soul that is trying to serve God. Here is expressed in plain words that in which the Lord delights. All who understand and know God will know Him as One that exercises loving-kindness, judgment, and righteousness. If they walk humbly with God they will be enabled to keep the way of the Lord, to do His will in all kindness, compassion, mercy, tenderness, and love, for God has said, "In these things I delight." Then how careful should we be in regard to the fruit of the lips, that we dishonor not God by dealing unkindly with the purchase of His blood. If we express the character of God, we shall be Christian gentlemen and gentlewomen.” —That I May Know Him, p. 126.

FIVE WISE VIRGINS

4. In which way does Jesus try to communicate the attainment of wisdom and understanding needed for the last days? Matthew 24:33; 25:1-4
“The ten virgins are watching in the evening of this earth's history. All claim to be Christians. All have a call, a name, a lamp, and all profess to be doing God's service. All apparently wait for Christ's appearing. But five are unready. Five will be found surprised, dismayed, outside the banquet hall.” —Christ's Object Lessons, p. 412.

5. As a parable is a metaphoric story, we understand that all the virgins have lamps with oil in them; meaning what? 2 Peter 1:20, 21; 2 Timothy 3:16 (first phrase)

“The two classes of watchers represent the two classes who profess to be waiting for their Lord. They are called virgins because they profess a pure faith. By the lamps is represented the word of God. The psalmist says, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." The oil is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. Thus the Spirit is represented in the prophecy of Zechariah.”

“From the two olive trees the golden oil was emptied through the golden pipes into the bowl of the candlestick, and thence into the golden lamps that gave light to the sanctuary. So from the holy ones that stand in God's presence His Spirit is imparted to the human instrumentalities who are consecrated to His service. The mission of the two anointed ones is to communicate to God's people that heavenly grace which alone can make His word a lamp to the feet and a light to the path. "Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts."” —Christ’s Object Lessons, pp. 406, 408.
6. What is it that makes only five of these virgins wise? Matthew 25:3, 4, 7-9. What in reality is meant by oil in their vessels? 2 Corinthians 4:6, 7

“In the parable, all the ten virgins went out to meet the bridegroom. All had lamps and vessels for oil. For a time there was seen no difference between them. So with the church that lives just before Christ's second coming. All have a knowledge of the Scriptures. All have heard the message of Christ's near approach, and confidently expect His appearing. But as in the parable, so it is now. A time of waiting intervenes, faith is tried; and when the cry is heard, "Behold, the Bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet Him," many are unready. They have no oil in their vessels with their lamps. They are destitute of the Holy Spirit.

“Without the Spirit of God a knowledge of His word is of no avail. The theory of truth, unaccompanied by the Holy Spirit, cannot quicken the soul or sanctify the heart. One may be familiar with the commands and promises of the Bible; but unless the Spirit of God sets the truth home, the character will not be transformed. Without the enlightenment of the Spirit, men will not be able to distinguish truth from error, and they will fall under the masterful temptations of Satan.” —Christ's Object Lessons, p. 408.

**WISDOM FOR THE HARVEST**

7. Is there a difference between mere knowledge and wisdom by which we may discern and not fall under the masterful temptations of Satan? Proverbs 2:6, 7, 10, 11; 15:2
“Man must not only read the Word of God, supposing that a casual knowledge of this Word will bring about in him a reformation of character. This work only the One who is the way, the truth, and the life can accomplish. Firmly may certain doctrines of truth be held. Again and again they may be reiterated, till the holders come to think that they are indeed in possession of the great blessings which these doctrines represent. But the greatest, most powerful truths may be held, and yet kept in the outer court, exerting little influence to make the daily life wholesome and fragrant. The soul is not sanctified through the truth that is not practiced.”

“When truth is held as truth only by the conscience, when the heart is not stimulated and made receptive, only the mind is affected. But when the truth is received as truth by the heart, it has passed through the conscience, and has captivated the soul with its pure principles. It is placed in the heart by the Holy Spirit, who reveals its beauty to the mind, that its transforming power may be seen in the character.” —Evangelism, pp. 290, 291.

8. Having studied Satan’s masterful temptations in this harvest time, is there wisdom to know how to meet this?
   1 Corinthians 1:23, 24; 2 Corinthians 4:10

“The Christian's life is a strangely mingled scene of sorrows and joys, disappointments and hopes, fears and confidence. There will be much dissatisfaction with self, as he views his own heart so deeply stirred, surged with passion that seems to bear all before it, and then follows remorse and sorrow and repentance, followed by peace and deep hidden joys, because he knows, as his faith grasps the promises that are revealed in God's Word, that he has the forgiving love of a longsuffering Saviour. And that Saviour, he seeks to bring into his life, weave into his character.

“It is these revealings, these discoveries of God's goodness, that make the soul humble and lead it to cry out in gratitude, "I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me" (Galatians 2:20). We have reason to be comforted. Severe outward trials may press around the soul where Jesus lives. Let us turn to Him for the consolations He has provided for us in His Word. The nether
springs of hope and comfort may appear to fail us, but the upper springs which feed the river of God are full of supply and can never be dried up. God would have you look away from the cause of your afflictions to Him who is the Owner of soul, body, and spirit. He is the lover of the soul. He knows the value of the soul. He is the true Vine and we are the branches. We shall have no spiritual nourishment only as we draw it from Jesus who is the life of the soul.” —This Day With God, p. 62.


“Dear friend, an entire transformation must take place in you, or you will be weighed in the balance and found wanting. The church at —--, especially talking women, have a lesson to learn. "If any man [or woman] among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain." Many will be weighed in the balance and found wanting in this matter of so great importance. Where are the Christians who walk by this rule? who will take God's part against the evilspeaker? who will please God, and set a watch, a continual watch, before the mouth, and keep the door of the lips? Speak evil of no man. Hear evil of no man. If there be no hearers, there will be no speakers of evil. If anyone speaks evil in your presence, check him. Refuse to hear him, though his manner be ever so soft and his accents mild. He may profess attachment, and yet throw out covert hints and stab the character in the dark.” —Testimonies for the Church Vol. 2, p. 54.

MEDITATION

“The day is at hand. For the lessons to be learned, the work to be done, the transformation of character to be effected, the time remaining is but too brief a span.” —Education, p. 184.

“As I saw what we must be in order to inherit glory, and then saw how much Jesus had suffered to obtain for us so rich an inheritance, I prayed
that we might be baptized into Christ's sufferings, that we might not shrink at trials, but bear them with patience and joy, knowing what Jesus had suffered that we through His poverty and sufferings might be made rich. Said the angel, "Deny self; ye must step fast." Some of us have had time to get the truth and to advance step by step, and every step we have taken has given us strength to take the next. But now time is almost finished, and what we have been years learning, they will have to learn in a few months. They will also have much to unlearn and much to learn again.” —Early Writings, p. 67.
Denominational Chaos

*For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Matthew 24:24*

**OBJECTIVES**

- To let Scripture describe the storms of the last days pertaining to religious organization.
- To observe the descriptions by Inspiration of spiritual perplexities for the elect.
- To study the light the Scriptures cast upon this denominational chaos.

**MULTIPLICITY OF CHURCHES**

1. **Does the Bible describe the condition of the religious world in the last days? Matthew 24:23, 24; Revelation 17:3-5**

“The multitudes do not want Bible truth, because it interferes with the desires of the sinful, world-loving heart; and Satan supplies the deceptions which they love.

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

“Satan is constantly endeavoring to attract attention to man in the place of God. He leads the people to look to bishops, to pastors, to professors of theology, as their guides, instead of searching the Scriptures to learn their duty for themselves. Then, by controlling the minds of these leaders, he can influence the multitudes according to his will.” —*The Great Controversy*, pp. 594, 595.

2. **Knowing that women are a metaphorical rendition of churches in prophecy, how clearly is their multiple numbers given in Scripture?** Song of Solomon 6:8

“There are many doctrines current in our world. There is many a religion current that numbers its thousands and tens of thousands, but there is but one that bears the superscription and the stamp of God. There is a religion of man and a religion of God. We must have our souls riveted to the eternal Rock. Everything in God's world, both men and doctrines and nature itself, is fulfilling God's sure word of prophecy and accomplishing His grand and closing work in this world's history.” —*Manuscript Releases Vol. 12*, p. 324.

**SPIRITUAL PERPLEXITIES**

3. **Is there a problem with so many churches differing with one another in Biblical teaching?** Isaiah 29:9-13

“Satan has wrought with deceiving power, bringing in a multiplicity of errors that obscure the truth. Error cannot stand alone, and would soon become extinct if it did not fasten itself like a parasite upon the tree of
truth. Error draws its life from the truth of God. The traditions of men, like floating germs, attach themselves to the truth of God, and men regard them as a part of the truth. Through false doctrines, Satan gains a foothold, and captivates the minds of men, causing them to hold theories that have no foundation in truth. Men boldly teach for doctrines the commandments of men; and as traditions pass on, from age to age, they acquire a power over human mind. But age does not make error truth, neither does its burdensome weight cause the plant of truth to become a parasite. The tree of truth bears its own genuine fruit, showing its true origin and nature. The parasite of error also bears its own fruit, and makes manifest that its character is diverse from the plant of heavenly origin.

“It is through false theories and traditions that Satan gains his power over the human mind. We can see the extent to which he exercises his power by the disloyalty that is in the world. Even the churches that profess to be Christian have turned from the law of Jehovah, and have erected a false standard. Satan has had his hand in all this; for by directing men to false standards, he misshapes the human character, and causes humanity to acknowledge him as supreme. He works counter to the holy law of God, and denies God's jurisdiction. It is at his throne that every evil work finds its starting point and obtains its support.” —Evangelism, p. 589.

4. What perplexing experience is described in Scripture due to the fables being taught? Isaiah 8:15, 19-22; Jeremiah 50:6, 7

“The world is perishing for want of the gospel. There is a famine for the word of God. There are few who preach the word unmixed with human tradition. Though men have the Bible in their hands, they do not receive the blessing that God has placed in it for them.” —Christ’s Object Lessons, p. 228.
5. Are there conflicts, storms described between the faithful and unfaithful ministers, even among those preaching the Adventist message? Matthew 24:45-49

“When faithful teachers expound the word of God, there arise men of learning, ministers professing to understand the Scriptures, who denounce sound doctrine as heresy, and thus turn away inquirers after truth. Were it not that the world is hopelessly intoxicated with the wine of Babylon, multitudes would be convicted and converted by the plain, cutting truths of the word of God. But religious faith appears so confused and discordant that the people know not what to believe as truth. The sin of the world's impenitence lies at the door of the church.”

“As the storm approaches, a large class who have professed faith in the third angel's message, but have not been sanctified through obedience to the truth, abandon their position and join the ranks of the opposition. By uniting with the world and partaking of its spirit, they have come to view matters in nearly the same light; and when the test is brought, they are prepared to choose the easy, popular side. Men of talent and pleasing address, who once rejoiced in the truth, employ their powers to deceive and mislead souls. They become the most bitter enemies of their former brethren. When Sabbathkeepers are brought before the courts to answer for their faith, these apostates are the most efficient agents of Satan to misrepresent and accuse them, and by false reports and insinuations to stir up the rulers against them.” —The Great Controversy, pp. 389, 608.

LIGHT AMIDST THE CHAOS

6. What light does Scripture throw upon the chaos of false churches and teachers at this time? Ezekiel 34:1-6
“There are professedly pious men who screen the sinner by their own transgression. They disregard the commandments of God, choosing the traditions of men, making void the law of God, and promoting apostasy. The excuses they make are feeble and weak and will bring destruction to their own souls and the souls of others. . . .

“Upon those who have taken upon them the work of shepherds of the flock, will be visited the heaviest judgments, because they have presented to the people fables instead of truth. Children will rise up and curse their parents. Church members, who have seen the light and been convicted, but who have trusted the salvation of their souls to the minister, will learn in the day of God that no other soul can pay the ransom for their transgression. A terrible cry will be raised, "I am lost, eternally lost." Men will feel as though they could rend in pieces the ministers who have preached falsehoods and condemned the truth. The pure truth for this time requires a reformation in the life, but they separate themselves from the love of the truth, and of them it can be said, "O Israel, thou hast destroyed thyself."

—S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 4, p. 1157.

7. **Although this dreadful description is given, is there light for the true sheep of Christ?** Ezekiel 34:11-16; John 10:14-16

“When the storm of persecution really breaks upon us, the true sheep will hear the true Shepherd's voice. Self-denying efforts will be put forth to save the lost, and many who have strayed from the fold will come back to follow the great Shepherd. The people of God will draw together, and present to the enemy a united front. . . . The love of Christ, the love of our brethren, will testify to the world that we have been with Jesus and learned of Him. Then will the message of the third angel swell to a loud cry, and the whole earth will be lightened with the glory of the Lord.” —Evangelism, p. 693.
8. In the dense darkness of denominational chaos, will the light still shine? Isaiah 60:1-3

“The great apostasy is working to a point, and will develop into darkness deep as midnight, impenetrable as sackcloth of hair. This is the time to employ any system that can be devised to discover and counteract the leaven of error. Let there be light. There should be one hundred light bearers in our world where there is one today. Darkness will become more dense in human minds after the truth has penetrated and been rejected. But there are some minds where the darkness will be removed. They recognize the light.”

“Satan has come down with great power to work with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish. The powers of deception are working upon minds in every country to gain a foothold. Satan is seeking to hedge up our way in this country. The night of trial, the night of weeping, the night of persecution for the truth's sake is not far distant. It is through much tribulation that we shall stand as faithful sentinels for God, not swerving one hair from truth and righteousness. Famines will increase; pestilences will weep away thousands. Danger are all around us from the powers without and satanic workings within, but the restraining power of God is now exercised.” —Manuscript Releases Vol. 19, p. 382.
The Bundling Experience

And in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn. Matthew 13:30

OBJECTIVES

• To confirm the time period of the harvest and bundling experience.
• To study the bundling aspects of God’s faithful children.
• To study the bundling realities of the unbelieving world, and the unfaithful.

THE TIME OF BUNDLING

1. Having identified the time of the harvest in lesson three and five to apply to the period of earth’s history from 1798 onward, what scriptures help us to come to that conclusion?
   Matthew 13:39 (last half); Daniel 8:14, 19; 12:7-9, 10

“The looker-on may discern no difference; but there is One who said that the tares were not to be plucked up by human hands lest the wheat be rooted up also. Let both grow together until the harvest. Then the Lord sends forth His reapers to gather out the tares and bind them in bundles to burn, while the wheat is gathered into the heavenly garner. The time of the judgment is a most solemn period, when the Lord
2. As Jesus declared that during this period the reapers are the angels, do we find reaping angels at work polarising the people on earth? Revelation 14:6-14

“I then saw the third angel. Said my accompanying angel, "Fearful is his work. Awful is his mission. He is the angel that is to select the wheat from the tares, and seal, or bind, the wheat for the heavenly garner. These things should engross the whole mind, the whole attention."" —Early Writings, p. 118.

“The angel is to place a mark upon the forehead of all who are separated from sin and sinners, and the destroying angel will follow, to slay utterly both old and young.” —Testimonies for the Church Vol. 5, p. 505.

3. For those expecting the harvest to be confined to the second coming of Jesus, with what words will they lament their mistakes? Jeremiah 8:20

“But there are many, many in our churches who know little of the real meaning of the truth for this time. I appeal to them not to disregard the fulfilling of the signs of the times, which says so plainly that the end is near. Oh, how many who have not sought their souls' salvation will soon make the bitter lamentation: "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved"!

“We are living in the closing scenes of this earth's history. Prophecy is fast fulfilling. The hours of probation are fast passing. We have no time--not a moment--to lose. Let us not be found sleeping on guard.” —Testimonies for the Church Vol. 8, p. 252.
PRESENT BUNDLING OF THE FAITHFUL

4. What is it that polarises the faithful believers in the three angels’ message? 2 Thessalonians 2:10 (last half), 11; 2 Timothy 3:1, 2, 5

“A glorious light rested down upon these companies, to enlighten all who would receive it. Some of those who were in darkness received the light and rejoiced; while others resisted the light from heaven, and said that it was deception to lead them astray. The light passed away from them, and they were left in darkness. Those who had received the light from Jesus, joyfully cherished the increase of precious light which was shed upon them. Their faces lighted up, and beamed with holy joy, while their gaze was directed upward to Jesus with intense interest, and their voices were heard in harmony with the voice of the angel, Fear God and give glory to him, for the hour of his judgment is come.” —Spiritual Gifts Vol. 1, p. 144.

“God has placed in our hands a banner upon which is inscribed, "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." Revelation 14:12. This is a distinct, separating message,—a message that is to give no uncertain sound. It is to lead the people away from the broken cisterns that contain no water, to the unfailing Fountain of the water of life.” —Counsels to Writers and Editors, p. 11.

5. For those who receive the three angels’ message and proclaim it, how will they find themselves? Revelation 14:12; 1 Corinthians 1:10
“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 Writings*, p. 88.

6. **How does Inspiration confirm that even in the time of the pioneers the bundling of the wheat was taking place, and what bound them together besides the truth?** *Hosea 11:4* (first half); *Isaiah 66:2, 5*

“...I see perplexities on every side. As character develops man and woman will take their position, for varied circumstances brought to bear upon them will cause them to reveal the spirit which prompts them to action. Every one will reveal the character of the bundle with which he is binding himself. The wheat is being bound up for the heavenly garner. The true people of God are now bound up for the heavenly garner. The true people of God are now pulling apart, and the tares are being bound in bundles ready to burn. Decided positions will be taken. Satan will move upon minds that have been indulged, upon men who have always had their own way, and anything presented to them in counsel or reproof to change their objectionable traits of character is considered faultfinding, binding them, restraining them, that they cannot have liberty to act themselves. The Lord in great mercy has sent messages of warning to them, but they would not listen to reproof. Like the enemy who rebelled in heaven, they do not like to hear, do not correct the wrong they have done but become accusers, declaring themselves misused and unappreciated.” —*The Ellen G. White 1888 Materials*, p. 995.
“On this perilous journey we should be a stay to one another. It is not safe for any of us to stand alone. We must be bound together by the cords of truth and love. Let us press together, allowing nothing to weaken the bonds of union, so that if one should slip and fall, others can lift him up. We must not think that no responsibility rests upon us in the case of our brother; but we should ever manifest the tenderest interest in one another's welfare, and should seek to be helpful to those around us. Being thus bound together, and to the great heart of Infinite Love, the powers of darkness cannot harm us; and when the storms of temptation and persecution break upon us, we shall not be swept away.” —The Signs of the Times, December 10, 1885.

**BUNDLING OF THE TARES**

7. As for the wicked, those that reject the messages of the angels, are they also polarised into bundles, or confederacies?  
Matthew 24:48, 49

“God is gathering out and binding up those who love and serve Him, and the wicked are being bound in bundles, ready for the fires of the last day. It depends wholly upon us which bundles we will be in, whether we will be with the good wheat or bound in bundles for the fires of the last day.”  
—Christ Triumphant, p. 60.

8. While the messages of the three angels and that of Revelation eighteen are binding the faithful into companies, or bundles, is there counsel for us to shun all connections with the bundles or confederacies of the world? Isaiah 8:9-13; Psalm 40:4

“The wicked are being bound up in bundles, bound up in trusts, in unions, in confederacies. Let us have nothing to do with these organizations. God
is our Ruler, our Governor, and He calls us to come out from the world and be separate. "Come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing." If we refuse to do this, if we continue to link up with the world, and to look at every matter from a worldly standpoint, we shall become like the world. When worldly policy and worldly ideas govern our transactions, we cannot stand on the high and holy platform of eternal truth.” — S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 4, p. 1142.
Out of the Common Order

*For he will finish the work, and cut it short in righteousness: because a short work will the Lord make upon the earth. Romans 9:28*

**OBJECTIVES**

- To come to the appreciation that we live in the time of everything out of order.
- To observe God at work in a manner adjusted to the prevalent disorder.
- To let Inspiration disclose the little remnant God will use in this work.

**ALL OUT OF ORDER**

1. How does Scripture describe the present condition of the society we live in? Isaiah 59:7-10

“Everything in the world is in agitation. The signs of the times are ominous. Coming events cast their shadows before. The Spirit of God is withdrawing from the earth, and calamity follows calamity by sea and by land. There are tempests, earthquakes, fires, floods, murders of every grade. Who can read the future? Where is security? There is assurance in nothing that is human or earthly. Rapidly are men ranging themselves under the banner they have chosen. Restlessly are they waiting and watching the movements of their leaders. There are those who are waiting and watching and working for our Lord’s appearing. Another class are falling into line under the generalship of the first great apostate. Few believe with heart and soul that we have a hell to shun and a heaven to win.” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 636.
2. Does this disorder of things also affect the condition of the professed people of God? Isaiah 59:12-15

“The same spirit is seen today that is represented in Revelation 6:6-8. History is to be reenacted. That which has been will be again. This spirit works to confuse and to perplex. Dissension will be seen in every nation, kindred, tongue and people, and those who have not had a spirit to follow the light that God has given through His living oracles, through His appointed agencies, will become confused. Their judgment will reveal weakness. Disorder and strife and confusion will be seen in the church.

“The prayer of Christ for His people, just before His humiliation and death, is as much unheeded as if it had never been made. The same spirit that controls the nations of the earth is working upon the minds of those who have had light. As the children of disobedience, irrespective of consequences, they act like the blind. They are drunken, but not with strong drink. They reveal [that] that which has allured and deceived them was an unholy ambition.”—Manuscript Releases Vol. 4, p. 152.

**GOD’S RELEVANT ADJUSTMENT**

3. What is God’s message to His church, especially to its leadership due to its disordered condition? Revelation 3:14-17

“The Laodicean message applies to the people of God who profess to believe present truth. The greater part are lukewarm professors, having a name but no zeal. God signified that He wanted men at the great heart of the work to correct the state of things existing there and to stand like faithful sentinels at their post of duty. He has given them light at every point, to instruct, encourage, and confirm them, as the case required. But notwithstanding all this, those who should be faithful and true, fervent in
Christian zeal, of gracious temper, knowing and loving Jesus earnestly, are found aiding the enemy to weaken and discourage those whom God is using to build up the work. The term "lukewarm" is applicable to this class. They profess to love the truth, yet are deficient in Christian fervor and devotion. They dare not give up wholly and run the risk of the unbeliever, yet they are unwilling to die to self and follow out closely the principles of their faith.” —Testimonies for the Church Vol. 4, p. 87.

4. How have the leadership (“angel”) of the church responded to the message? Revelation 3:17; Isaiah 30:9-11

“I am filled with sadness when I think of our condition as a people. The Lord has not closed heaven to us, but our own course of continual backsliding has separated us from God. Pride, covetousness, and love of the world have lived in the heart without fear of banishment or condemnation. Grievous and presumptuous sins have dwelt among us. And yet the general opinion is that the church is flourishing and that peace and spiritual prosperity are in all her borders.

“The church has turned back from following Christ her Leader and is steadily retreating toward Egypt. Yet few are alarmed or astonished at their want of spiritual power. Doubt, and even disbelief of the testimonies of the Spirit of God, is leavening our churches everywhere. Satan would have it thus. Ministers who preach self instead of Christ would have it thus. The testimonies are unread and unappreciated. God has spoken to you. Light has been shining from His word and from the testimonies, and both have been slighted and disregarded. The result is apparent in the lack of purity and devotion and earnest faith among us.” —Testimonies for the Church Vol. 5, p. 217.

5. Does their negative response to the faithful and true Witness affect their order of organised missionary work? Revelation 3:16
“To those who are indifferent at this time Christ's warning is: "Because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of My mouth." Revelation 3:16. The figure of spewing out of His mouth means that He cannot offer up your prayers or your expressions of love to God. He cannot endorse your teaching of His word or your spiritual work in anywise. He cannot present your religious exercises with the request that grace be given you.” — Testimonies for the Church Vol. 6, p. 408.

“I have been shown that human beings desire too much power. They desire to control, and the Lord God, the mighty worker is left out of their work. The workmen feel qualified to hold the highest place. Let no man attempt to manage that work which should be left in the hands of the great I AM, and who is in His own way planning how the work shall be done. Know that God is the Instructor of His servants, and He will work through whom He will.” — Christian Leadership, p. 26.

6. Will God bypass His common order of using church leadership to conduct His work due to their rejection of His message to them? Revelation 3:20; Romans 9:28

“Unless those who can help in _____ are aroused to a sense of their duty, they will not recognize the work of God when the loud cry of the third angel shall be heard. When light goes forth to lighten the earth, instead of coming up to the help of the Lord, they will want to bind about His work to meet their narrow ideas. Let me tell you that the Lord will work in this last work in a manner very much out of the common order of things, and in a way that will be contrary to any human planning. There will be those among us who will always want to control the work of God, to dictate even what movements shall be made when the work goes forward under the direction of the angel who joins the third angel in the message to be given to the world. God will use ways and means by which it will be seen that He is taking the reins in His own hands. The workers will be surprised by the simple means that He will use to bring about and perfect His work of righteousness.” — Evangelism, p. 118.


**GOD’S USE OF ANY MAN**

7. As Jesus addresses the “any man” in Revelation 3:20, whom will He use when He works out of the common order of things? 
   Joel 2:28, 29

“In this closing work of the gospel there is a vast field to be occupied; and, more than ever before, the work is to enlist helpers from the common people. Both the youth and those older in years will be called from the field, from the vineyard, and from the workshop, and sent forth by the Master to give His message. Many of these have had little opportunity for education; but Christ sees in them qualifications that will enable them to fulfill His purpose. If they put their hearts into the work, and continue to be learners, He will fit them to labor for Him.

“He who knows the depths of the world's misery and despair, knows by what means to bring relief. He sees on every hand souls in darkness, bowed down with sin and sorrow and pain. But He sees also their possibilities; He sees the height to which they may attain. Although human beings have abused their mercies, wasted their talents, and lost the dignity of godlike manhood, the Creator is to be glorified in their redemption.

“The burden of labor for these needy ones in the rough places of the earth Christ lays upon those who can feel for the ignorant and for such as are out of the way. He will be present to help those whose hearts are susceptible to pity, though their hands may be rough and unskilled. He will work through those who can see mercy in misery, and gain in loss. When the Light of the world passes by, privilege will be discerned in hardship, order in confusion, success in apparent failure. Calamities will be seen as disguised blessings; woes, as mercies. Laborers from the common people, sharing the sorrows of their fellow men as their Master shared the sorrows of the whole human race, will by faith see Him working with them.” —*Education*, pp. 269, 270.
8. How well does Inspiration describe God bypassing the leader for the common people to whom He can entrust the flock?

Isaiah 66:2; Jeremiah 3:15; Isaiah 30:20, 21

“The days are fast approaching when there will be great perplexity and confusion. Satan, clothed in angel robes, will deceive, if possible, the very elect. There will be gods many and lords many. Every wind of doctrine will be blowing. Those who have rendered supreme homage to "science falsely so called" will not be the leaders then. Those who have trusted to intellect, genius, or talent will not then stand at the head of rank and file. They did not keep pace with the light. Those who have proved themselves unfaithful will not then be entrusted with the flock. In the last solemn work few great men will be engaged. They are self-sufficient, independent of God, and He cannot use them. The Lord has faithful servants, who in the shaking, testing time will be disclosed to view. There are precious ones now hidden who have not bowed the knee to Baal. They have not had the light which has been shining in a concentrated blaze upon you. But it may be under a rough and uninviting exterior the pure brightness of a genuine Christian character will be revealed. In the day time we look toward heaven but do not see the stars. They are there, fixed in the firmament, but the eye cannot distinguish them. In the night we behold their genuine luster.” —Testimonies for the Church Vol. 5, p. 80.

**MEDITATION**

“The strength of nations and of individuals is not found in the opportunities and facilities that appear to make them invincible; it is not found in their boasted greatness. That which alone can make them great or strong is the power of God. They themselves, by their attitude toward His purpose, decide their own destiny.

“Human histories relate man's achievements, his victories in battle, his success in attaining worldly greatness. God's history describes man as
heaven views him. In the divine records all his merit is seen to consist in his obedience to God's requirements.”

“In the eyes of the world, those who serve God may appear weak. They may be apparently sinking beneath the billows, but with the next billow, they are seen rising nearer to their heaven. I give unto them eternal life, saith our Lord, and none shall be able to pluck them out of My hand. Though kings shall be cast down, and nations removed, the souls that through faith link themselves with God's purpose shall abide forever.”

—Sons and Daughters of God, p. 338.
The Swelling of Jacob’s Trouble

If thou hast run with the footmen, and they have wearied thee, then how canst thou contend with horses? and if in the land of peace, wherein thou trustedst, they wearied thee, then how wilt thou do in the swelling of Jordan? Jeremiah 12:5

OBJECTIVES

- To reflect upon the developments of perplexing storms of life since 1798.
- To realise that the relentless nature of these events is intensifying to Jacob’s trouble.
- To use present perplexities to prepare for the ultimate conclusion.

END-TIME PERPLEXITIES

1. What have we come to realise from the previous twelve lessons regarding the time of the end and its perplexities? Daniel 8:19; Jeremiah 5:24

“"And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold." The very atmosphere is polluted with sin. Soon God's people will be tested by fiery trials, and the great proportion of those who now appear to be genuine and true will prove to be base metal.” —Testimonies for the Church Vol. 5, p. 136.
“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.

2. Are we at this time able to look back and see the ever-increasing storms from the time of the days of Sister White? Luke 21:25, 26

“I was shown the inhabitants of the earth in the utmost confusion. War, bloodshed, privation, want, famine, and pestilence were abroad in the land. As these things surrounded God's people, they began to press together, and to cast aside their little difficulties. Self-dignity no longer controlled them; deep humility took its place. Suffering, perplexity, and privation caused reason to resume its throne, and the passionate and unreasonable man became sane, and acted with discretion and wisdom.

“My attention was then called from the scene. There seemed to be a little time of peace. Once more the inhabitants of the earth were presented before me; and again everything was in the utmost confusion. Strife, war, and bloodshed, with famine and pestilence, raged everywhere. Other nations were engaged in this war and confusion. War caused famine. Want and bloodshed caused pestilence. And then men's hearts failed them for fear, "and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth.”” —Testimonies for the Church Vol. 1, p. 268.

**SWELLING EVENTS**

3. How does Inspiration describe the proclamation of the three angels’ messages culminating in the loud cry of the third angel? Revelation 14:9 (first part); 18:2 (first part)
“The truth for this time, the third angel's message, is to be proclaimed with a loud voice, meaning with increasing power, as we approach the great final test.” —Manuscript Releases Vol. 9, p. 291.

“As the third angel's message swells into a loud cry, great power and glory will attend its proclamation. The faces of God's people will shine with the light of heaven.” —Maranatha, p. 202.

“I saw angels hurrying to and fro in heaven. They were descending to earth, and again ascending to heaven, preparing for the fulfillment of some important event. Then I saw another mighty angel commissioned to descend to earth, and unite his voice with the third angel, and give power and force to his message. [...] The work of this angel comes in at the right time, and joins in the last great work of the third angel's message, as it swells into a loud cry. And the people of God are fitted up everywhere to stand in the hour of temptation which they are soon to meet. I saw a great light resting upon them, and they united in the message, and fearlessly proclaimed with great power the third angel's message.” —Spiritual Gifts Vol. 1, p. 193.

4. What will also swell in consequence of the ever-increasing power of the message? 2 Timothy 3:12, 13

“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.”

“As the opposition rises to a fiercer height, the servants of God are again perplexed; for it seems to them that they have brought the crisis. But conscience and the word of God assure them that their course is right; and although the trials continue, they are strengthened to bear them. The contest grows closer and sharper, but their faith and courage rise with the emergency. Their testimony is: "We dare not tamper with God's word, dividing His holy law; calling one portion essential and another nonessential, to gain the favor of the world. The Lord whom we serve is able to deliver us. Christ has conquered the powers of earth; and shall we be afraid of a world already conquered?"” —The Great Controversy, pp. 607, 610.

5. As this kind of storm intensifies, will all Sabbath keepers remain faithful? Will the men in leadership crumble under the pressure? Acts 20:29, 30; Matthew 24:48, 49; Psalm 55:12-14

“As the storm approaches, a large class who have professed faith in the third angel's message, but have not been sanctified through obedience to the truth, abandon their position and join the ranks of the opposition. By uniting with the world and partaking of its spirit, they have come to view matters in nearly the same light; and when the test is brought, they are prepared to choose the easy, popular side. Men of talent and pleasing address, who once rejoiced in the truth, employ their powers to deceive and mislead souls. They become the most bitter enemies of their former brethren. When Sabbathkeepers are brought before the courts to answer for their faith, these apostates are the most efficient agents of Satan to misrepresent and accuse them, and by false reports and insinuations to stir up the rulers against them.” —The Great Controversy, p. 608.
6. Does Scripture describe the final intensity of the swelling events? Genesis 32:24-30

“As Satan influenced Esau to march against Jacob, so he will stir up the wicked to destroy God's people in the time of trouble. And as he accused Jacob, he will urge his accusations against the people of God. He numbers the world as his subjects; but the little company who keep the commandments of God are resisting his supremacy. If he could blot them from the earth, his triumph would be complete.”

“As Satan accuses the people of God on account of their sins, the Lord permits him to try them to the uttermost. Their confidence in God, their faith and firmness, will be severely tested. As they review the past, their hopes sink; for in their whole lives they can see little good. They are fully conscious of their weakness and unworthiness. Satan endeavors to terrify them with the thought that their cases are hopeless, that the stain of their defilement will never be washed away. He hopes so to destroy their faith that they will yield to his temptations and turn from their allegiance to God.”

“Their affliction is great, the flames of the furnace seem about to consume them; but the Refiner will bring them forth as gold tried in the fire. God's love for His children during the period of their severest trial is as strong and tender as in the days of their sunniest prosperity; but it is needful for them to be placed in the furnace of fire; their earthliness must be consumed, that the image of Christ may be perfectly reflected.” —The Great Controversy, pp. 618, 621.

PRESENT PREPARATION

7. To meet that final crisis, do the preliminary swellings serve to prepare us? James 1:2-4; 1 Peter 1:6, 7
“The season of distress and anguish before us will require a faith that can endure weariness, delay, and hunger—a faith that will not faint though severely tried. The period of probation is granted to all to prepare for that time. Jacob prevailed because he was persevering and determined. His victory is an evidence of the power of importunate prayer. All who will lay hold of God's promises, as he did, and be as earnest and persevering as he was, will succeed as he succeeded. Those who are unwilling to deny self, to agonize before God, to pray long and earnestly for His blessing, will not obtain it. Wrestling with God—how few know what it is! How few have ever had their souls drawn out after God with intensity of desire until every power is on the stretch. When waves of despair which no language can express sweep over the suppliant, how few cling with unyielding faith to the promises of God.

“Those who exercise but little faith now, are in the greatest danger of falling under the power of satanic delusions and the decree to compel the conscience. And even if they endure the test they will be plunged into deeper distress and anguish in the time of trouble, because they have never made it a habit to trust in God. The lessons of faith which they have neglected they will be forced to learn under a terrible pressure of discouragement.” —*The Great Controversy*, pp. 621, 622.

8. **As the ever-escalating storms of life surround us, does Scripture challenge us in reference to how we handle them now?**

*Jeremiah 12:5*

“The path to freedom from sin is through crucifixion of self, and conflict with the powers of darkness. Let none be discouraged in view of the severe trials to be met in the time of Jacob's trouble, which is yet before them. They are to work earnestly, anxiously, not for that time, but for today. What we want is to have a knowledge of the truth as it is in Christ now, and a personal experience now. In these precious closing hours of
probation, we have a deep and living experience to gain. We shall thus form characters that will ensure our deliverance in the time of trouble.

“The time of trouble is the crucible that is to bring out Christlike characters. It is designed to lead the people of God to renounce Satan and his temptations. The last conflict will reveal Satan to them in his true character, that of a cruel tyrant, and it will do for them what nothing else could do, uproot him entirely from their affections. For to love and cherish sin, is to love and cherish its author, that deadly foe of Christ. When they excuse sin and cling to perversity of character, they give Satan a place in their affections, and pay him homage.” —*Our High Calling*, p. 321.
SECTION 2

OUR SPIRITUAL FORTIFICATION
Introduction

During the past three months we have looked in depth into the storms of the last days to understand both what they are, and to recognize that we in our generations have been living in them. It was the design of these studies to alert us to the fact that many professing Christians have already fallen into spiritual decay; that the high standards of God’s calling have been lowered by the churches to make Christianity more acceptable to weather-beaten humanity.

Now that we have become painfully aware of the detail of the storms that are raging around us, we have a need of God’s provisions of fortification by which we can meet these storms and not crumble under them. This is the design of this second section. Let us diligently apply ourselves to the study of this section and do what is written in Nahum 2:1:

“He that dasheth in pieces is come up before thy face: keep the munition, watch the way, make thy loins strong, fortify thy power mightily.”

Indeed we live in times of such seriousness, and yet religious exercises of modern Christianity merely provide for feelings of ecstasy to palliate the troubled soul. The following words of inspiration tell us why we need what this section of our lesson is designed to achieve:

“Fanciful representations of truth may cause an ecstasy of feeling, but all too often truths presented in this way do not supply the food necessary to strengthen and fortify the believer for the battles of life. The immediate needs, the present trials, of struggling souls—these must be met with sound, practical instruction in the fundamental principles of Christianity.” —The Acts of the Apostles, p. 251.

It is the prayer of the editor of this lesson that every student will find the sound, practical instruction needed to be able to stand as valiant soldiers in these stormy times, and be fortified for the worse to come.
Meat in Due Season

Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? Matthew 24:45

OBJECTIVES

• To revisit the perplexing times in which we live.
• To recognise the faithful and wise servant by whom we can find help.
• To identify the spiritual food required to survive the tempests of the last days.

TIMES OF STORM

1. In reflection of our study during the last three months, where do we find ourselves according to the revelations of God’s word? Luke 21:25, 26

“The words of Jesus Christ are spoken to us living down here in the close of this earth's history. "When these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh." The nations are in unrest. Times of perplexity are upon us. The waves of the sea are roaring; men's hearts are failing them for fear and for expectation of those things that are coming upon the earth; but those who believe on the Son of God will hear His voice amid the storm, saying, "It is I; be not afraid." . . . We see the world lying in wickedness and apostasy. Rebellion to the commandments of God seems almost universal. Amid the tumult of excitement with confusion in every place, there is a work to be done in the world.” —Evangelism, p. 18.
2. Does Scripture describe the scarcity of the needed sustenance to survive spiritually during these times? Amos 8:11-13

“We are living in a time when a great work is to be done. There is a famine in the land for the pure gospel, and the bread of life is to be given to hungry souls.” —Christian Service, p. 152.

**FAITHFUL AND WISE SERVANT**

3. As Jesus spoke of these perilous times just before His second advent, what did He say regarding the Adventist ministries of this time? Matthew 24:45-50

“Because they know that the Lord is at the door, their zeal is quickened to co-operate with the divine intelligences in working for the salvation of souls. These are the faithful and wise servants who give to the Lord's household "their portion of meat in due season." Luke 12:42. They are declaring the truth that is now specially applicable. As Enoch, Noah, Abraham, and Moses each declared the truth for his time, so will Christ's servants now give the special warning for their generation.”

“The evil servant says in his heart, "My lord delayeth his coming." He does not say that Christ will not come. He does not scoff at the idea of His second coming. But in his heart and by his actions and words he declares that the Lord's coming is delayed. He banishes from the minds of others the conviction that the Lord is coming quickly.” —The Desire of Ages, pp. 634, 635.
4. Considering the present state of the modern Seventh-day Adventist ministry, to whom should we look as the faithful and wise servant? Jeremiah 6:16; Deuteronomy 32:7; Jude 1:3

“We have nothing to fear for the future except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history.” —Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers, p. 31.

“Where shall we find safety unless it be in the truths that the Lord has been giving for the last fifty years?” —Counsels to Writers and Editors, p. 53.

“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.

**RELEVANT SPIRITUAL FOOD**

5. How shall we look to the faithful and wise servant if they are dead? Proverbs 22:17-21; Ecclesiastes 12:10, 11
“The world is to receive the light of truth through an evangelizing ministry of the word in our books and periodicals. Our publications are to show that the end of all things is at hand.” —Christian Service, p. 146.

“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.

6. What in all reality is meat in due season? 2 Peter 1:12

“Therefore, what is done to rescue souls from the coming storm of wrath, must be done before Jesus leaves the Most Holy Place of the Heavenly Sanctuary.

“The Lord has shown me that precious souls are starving, and dying for want of the present, sealing truth, the meat in due season; and that the swift messengers should speed on their way, and feed the flock with the present truth. I heard an Angel say, "speed the swift messengers, speed the swift messengers; for the case of every soul will soon be decided, either for Life, or for Death."” —The Review and Herald, September 1, 1849.

7. Does Jesus refer to the need of the truth that can withstand the storms of the last days? Matthew 8:24-27

“Christ illustrated character building by a house built on a rock, against which storm and tempest were powerless, and the house built on the sand, which was swept away. We are living in perilous times. Amidst the changing scenes, with heresy and false doctrines coming in that will test the faith of all, the house built on the solid rock cannot be shaken. But when storm and tempest come, the house built on the sand will fall, and great will be the fall of it.” —Medical Ministry, p. 87.
8. What is needed in the presentation of truth to provide relevant assistance to meet the perplexities of the last days? John 7:17 (first half); 1 Corinthians 14:8

“Paul was an eloquent speaker. Before his conversion he had often sought to impress his hearers by flights of oratory. But now he set all this aside. Instead of indulging in poetic descriptions and fanciful representations, which might please the senses and feed the imagination, but which would not touch the daily experience, Paul sought by the use of simple language to bring home to the heart the truths that are of vital importance. Fanciful representations of truth may cause an ecstasy of feeling, but all too often truths presented in this way do not supply the food necessary to strengthen and fortify the believer for the battles of life. The immediate needs, the present trials, of struggling souls—these must be met with sound, practical instruction in the fundamental principles of Christianity.” —The Acts of the Apostles, p. 251.

MEDITATION

“The prayer of Christ for His disciples was, "Sanctify them through Thy truth: Thy word is truth." If we are to be sanctified through a knowledge of the truth found in the word of God, we must have an intelligent knowledge of His will therein revealed. We must search the Scriptures, not merely rush through a chapter and repeat it, taking no pains to understand it, but we must dig for the jewel of truth which will enrich the mind, and fortify the soul against the wiles and temptations of the archdeceiver.” —Counsels on Sabbath School Work, p. 19.
The God of Jacob’s Trouble

Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob’s trouble; but he shall be saved out of it. Jeremiah 30:7

OBJECTIVES

- To consider the nature of God and His attitude toward such as faulty Jacob.
- To learn God’s way of preparation to meet the day of Jacob’s trouble.
- To take to heart the assurance that God will save His people out of Jacob’s trouble.

TO KNOW GOD

1. What is necessary for us to be saved out of the trouble of this life unto life eternal? John 17:3

“The servants of Christ were to prepare no set speech to present when brought to trial. Their preparation was to be made day by day in treasuring up the precious truths of God's word, and through prayer strengthening their faith. When they were brought into trial, the Holy Spirit would bring to their remembrance the very truths that would be needed.

“A daily, earnest striving to know God, and Jesus Christ whom He has sent, would bring power and efficiency to the soul. The knowledge obtained by diligent searching of the Scriptures would be flashed into the memory at the right time. But if any had neglected to acquaint themselves with the words of Christ, if they had never tested the power of His grace in trial, they could not expect that the Holy Spirit would bring His words to
their remembrance. They were to serve God daily with undivided affection, and then trust Him.” —The Desire of Ages, p. 355.

2. Will our knowledge of God be enlarged as we consider His attitude to sinful Jacob? Genesis 27:41-43; 28:10-15

“Many are the figures by which the Spirit of God has sought to illustrate this truth, and make it plain to souls that long to be freed from the burden of guilt. When, after his sin in deceiving Esau, Jacob fled from his father's home, he was weighed down with a sense of guilt. Lonely and outcast as he was, separated from all that had made life dear, the one thought that above all others pressed upon his soul, was the fear that his sin had cut him off from God, that he was forsaken of Heaven. In sadness he lay down to rest on the bare earth, around him only the lonely hills, and above, the heavens bright with stars. As he slept, a strange light broke upon his vision; and lo, from the plain on which he lay, vast shadowy stairs seemed to lead upward to the very gates of heaven, and upon them angels of God were passing up and down; while from the glory above, the divine voice was heard in a message of comfort and hope. Thus was made known to Jacob that which met the need and longing of his soul—a Saviour. With joy and gratitude he saw revealed a way by which he, a sinner, could be restored to communion with God. The mystic ladder of his dream represented Jesus, the only medium of communication between God and man.” —Steps to Christ, p. 19.

3. What was the ingredient in Jacob by which the knowledge of God is clarified? Psalms 51:17; 34:17, 18; Isaiah 57:15
“The patriarchs were men of prayer, and God did great things for them. When Jacob left his father's house for a strange land, he prayed in humble contrition, and in the night season the Lord answered him through vision. The Lord comforted the lonely wanderer with precious promises; and protecting angels were represented as stationed on each side of his path.”
—My Life Today, p. 20.

“Jacob "had power over the Angel, and prevailed." Hosea 12:4. Through humiliation, repentance, and self-surrender, this sinful, erring mortal prevailed with the Majesty of heaven. He had fastened his trembling grasp upon the promises of God, and the heart of Infinite Love could not turn away the sinner's plea.” —Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 197.

**GOD’S WAY OF PREPARATION**

4. **When Jacob came to his time of trouble, is the contrition he exercised the object lesson for us in preparation for the full storm of Jacob’s trouble?** Zephaniah 2:1-3; Acts 3:19

“Had not Jacob previously repented of his sin in obtaining the birthright by fraud, God would not have heard his prayer and mercifully preserved his life. So, in the time of trouble, if the people of God had unconfessed sins to appear before them while tortured with fear and anguish, they would be overwhelmed; despair would cut off their faith, and they could not have confidence to plead with God for deliverance. But while they have a deep sense of their unworthiness, they have no concealed wrongs to reveal. Their sins have gone beforehand to judgment and have been blotted out, and they cannot bring them to remembrance.” —The Great Controversy, p. 620.

5. **Is the parallel that Inspiration makes of Jacob with us, real in that his and our past sins will be associated with a time of trouble?** Proverbs 26:2
“Jacob's night of anguish, when he wrestled in prayer for deliverance from the hand of Esau, represents the experience of God's people in the time of trouble. Because of the deception practiced to secure his father's blessing, intended for Esau, Jacob had fled for his life, alarmed by his brother's deadly threats. After remaining for many years an exile, he had set out, at God's command, to return with his wives and children, his flocks and herds, to his native country. On reaching the borders of the land, he was filled with terror by the tidings of Esau's approach at the head of a band of warriors, doubtless bent upon revenge. Jacob's company, unarmed and defenseless, seemed about to fall helpless victims of violence and slaughter. And to the burden of anxiety and fear was added the crushing weight of self-reproach, for it was his own sin that had brought this danger. His only hope was in the mercy of God; his only defense must be prayer. Yet he leaves nothing undone on his own part to atone for the wrong to his brother and to avert the threatened danger. So should the followers of Christ, as they approach the time of trouble, make every exertion to place themselves in a proper light before the people, to disarm prejudice, and to avert the danger which threatens liberty of conscience.” —The Great Controversy, p. 616.

6. Further to question five, are we able to discern our present preparation by gaining an understanding of the following words of inspiration? Nehemiah 13:2 (last phrase); 2 Corinthians 4:6

“"The curse causeless shall not come". "Say ye to the righteous, that it shall be well with him. . . . Woe unto the wicked! it shall be ill with him: for the reward of his hands shall be given him" . "Hear, O earth: behold, I will bring evil upon this people, even the fruit of their thoughts" Terrible is this truth, and deeply should it be impressed. Every deed reacts upon the doer. Never a human being but may recognize, in the evils that curse his life, fruitage of his own sowing. Yet even thus we are not without hope.

“Jacob resorted to fraud, and he reaped the harvest in his brother's hatred. Through twenty years of exile he was himself wronged and defrauded. . . . But God says: " . . . I have seen his ways, and will heal him.” Jacob in his
distress was not overwhelmed. He had repented, he had endeavored to atone for the wrong to his brother. And when threatened with death through the wrath of Esau, he sought help from God. . . . "He wept, and made supplication" "And he blessed him there" . . The power of evil in his own nature was broken; his character was transformed. . . .

“God does not annul His laws. He does not work contrary to them. The work of sin He does not undo. But He transforms. Through His grace the curse works out blessing.” —Conflict and Courage, p. 10.

**BLESSED ASSURANCE**

7. In the description of that terrible time of trouble, how are we reassured that by present preparation we will be saved out of it?

*Jeremiah 30:7*

“The path to freedom from sin is through crucifixion of self, and conflict with the powers of darkness. Let none be discouraged in view of the severe trials to be met in the time of Jacob's trouble, which is yet before them. They are to work earnestly, anxiously, not for that time, but for today. What we want is to have a knowledge of the truth as it is in Christ now, and a personal experience now. In these precious closing hours of probation, we have a deep and living experience to gain. We shall thus form characters that will ensure our deliverance in the time of trouble.

“The time of trouble is the crucible that is to bring out Christlike characters. It is designed to lead the people of God to renounce Satan and his temptations. The last conflict will reveal Satan to them in his true character, that of a cruel tyrant, and it will do for them what nothing else could do, uproot him entirely from their affections. For to love and cherish sin, is to love and cherish its author, that deadly foe of Christ. When they excuse sin and cling to perversity of character, they give Satan a place in their affections, and pay him homage.” —*Our High Calling*, p. 321.
8. As we contemplate the experience of Jacob in his time of trouble, can we discern the comfort for our souls as we face our time of trouble? Psalms 46:6-11; 146:5

“The temptations of Satan are greater now than ever before, for he knows that his time is short, and that very soon every case will be decided, either for life or for death. It is no time now to sink down beneath discouragement and trial; we must bear up under all our afflictions, and trust wholly in the Almighty God of Jacob. . . . His grace is sufficient for all our trials; and although they are greater than ever before, yet if we trust wholly in God, we can overcome every temptation and through His grace come off victorious. . . .

“When temptations and trials rush in upon us, let us go to God and agonize with Him in prayer. He will not turn us away empty, but will give us grace and strength to overcome, and to break the power of the enemy.” —God’s Amazing Grace, p. 39.
Deepening Sabbath Rest

But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day. Proverbs 4:18

OBJECTIVES

- To revisit the consideration of the ever-progressive storms to their climax.
- To research the swelling and ever-deepening contrasting progress of truth.
- To behold the ever-increasing appreciation of Sabbath keeping and its associated rest as God’s people meet final storms.

THICKENING DARKNESS AND STORMS

1. From our studies in section one, how does Scripture portray the progressive decline of life on this planet in these last days? Proverbs 4:19; 2 Timothy 3:12, 13; Isaiah 59:14, 15

“The great controversy between the Prince of light and the prince of darkness has not abated one jot or tittle of its fierceness as time has gone on. The stern conflict between light and darkness, between error and truth, is deepening in its intensity. The synagogue of Satan is intensely active, and in this age the deceiving power of the enemy is working in the most subtle way. Every human mind that is not surrendered to God, and is not under the control of the Spirit of God, will be perverted through satanic agencies.” —Christ Triumphant, p. 249.
“Infidels are at work to devise means of spreading their poison; the papists are plotting daily the suppression of the word of God,—the best means of enslaving the souls of men, and deepening the darkness that already exists.” —Manuscript Releases Vol. 3, p. 380.

2. What of the restlessness of human passions and associated storms of life does Inspiration reveal? Isaiah 57:20, 21

“We feel depressed, greatly depressed, as we see the world and its wickedness. The professed Christian world is enveloped in the darkness that covers the earth. We sigh and cry for the abominations that are done in the land. Why is it that all this wickedness does not break forth in decided violence against righteousness and truth? It is because the four angels are holding the four winds, that they shall not blow upon the earth. But human passions are reaching a high pass, and the Spirit of the Lord is being withdrawn from the earth. Were it not that God has commanded angelic agencies to control the satanic agencies that are seeking to break loose and to destroy, there would be no hope. But the winds are to be held until the servants of God are sealed in their foreheads.” —Manuscript Releases Vol. 20, p. 269.

**INTENSIFYING PROGRESS OF TRUTH**

3. While darkness and the tempest of wickedness intensifies in the last days, is there a corresponding and contrasting development in light and righteousness? Proverbs 4:18; Isaiah 60:1-3

“The Scriptures pointing forward to this time declare that Satan will work with all power and "with all deceivableness of unrighteousness." His working is plainly revealed by the rapidly increasing darkness, the multitudinous errors, heresies, and delusions of these last days. Not only is Satan leading the world captive, but his deceptions are leavening the
professed churches of our Lord Jesus Christ. The great apostasy will develop into darkness deep as midnight, impenetrable as sackcloth of hair. To God's people it will be a night of trial, a night of weeping, a night of persecution for the truth's sake. But out of that night of darkness God's light will shine.”

“It is the darkness of misapprehension of God that is enshrouding the world. Men are losing their knowledge of His character. It has been misunderstood and misinterpreted. At this time a message from God is to be proclaimed, a message illuminating in its influence and saving in its power. His character is to be made known. Into the darkness of the world is to be shed the light of His glory, the light of His goodness, mercy, and truth.” —Christ’s Object Lessons, pp. 414, 415.

4. What encouragement can we gain from the message contained in Revelation eighteen during the intensifying darkness? Revelation 18:1-3; Habakkuk 2:14

“The light of truth was withheld, and darkness prevailed. The nations were overspread with a veil of ignorance; the love of God was little known; error and superstition flourished.

“Such was the prospect that greeted Isaiah when he was called to the prophetic mission; yet he was not discouraged, for ringing in his ears was the triumphal chorus of the angels surrounding the throne of God, "The whole earth is full of His glory." Isaiah 6:3. And his faith was strengthened by visions of glorious conquests by the church of God, when "the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea." Isaiah 11:9. "The face of the covering cast over all people, and the veil that is spread over all nations," was finally to be destroyed. Isaiah 25:7. The Spirit of God was to be poured out upon all flesh. Those who hunger and thirst after righteousness were to be numbered among the Israel of God. "They shall spring up as among the grass, as willows by the watercourses," said the prophet. "One shall say, I am the Lord's; and another shall call himself by the name of Jacob; and another shall subscribe with his hand
unto the Lord, and surname himself by the name of Israel." Isaiah 44:4, 5.” —Prophets and Kings, p. 371.

5. How will this happen in the midst of intensifying darkness?

“Thus the message of the third angel will be proclaimed. As the time comes for it 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.”

“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, pp. 606, 607.

SUSTAINING SABBATH REST

6. As true Sabbath keeping is attacked by the enforcement of Sunday laws, and all nature and society is in turmoil, is there rest and comfort for those who hold true to the Sabbath?
   Isaiah 58:13, 14; Habakkuk 3:16-19
“We should search the Scriptures daily; for the word of God is our unerring guide. We are here in a world of doubt and skepticism. The law of God is made void, unbelief seems to be in the very air we breathe; and to resist all these influences, and battle successfully against the powers of darkness, requires strong faith and earnest prayer. But amid all these opposing influences, we may repose in God with perfect confidence. I once read of an eagle that had left her home in the Alps, and clouds dark and heavy intervened between her and her home in the towering cliffs. She seemed bewildered, and with loud screams flew first one way and then another against the over-hanging clouds. Suddenly, with a shrill scream of determination, she darted upward through the dense clouds into the clear sky above. The clouds were beneath her, and she was again in her mountain home. And so may we rise above the clouds of skepticism, and dwell in the clear sunshine of God's presence.” — *The Bible Echo*, September 24, 1894.

7. **Are the true blessings of the Sabbath as progressive an experience as the description of the path of the just in Proverbs?**

Psalm 37:4-7

“I saw that we sensed and realized but little of the importance of the Sabbath, to what we yet should realize and know of its importance and glory. I saw we knew not what it was yet to ride upon the high places of the earth and to be fed with the heritage of Jacob. But when the refreshing and latter rain shall come from the presence of the Lord and the glory of His power we shall know what it is to be fed with the heritage of Jacob and ride upon the high places of the earth. Then shall we see the Sabbath more in its importance and glory. But we shall not see it in all its glory and importance until the covenant of peace is made with us at the voice of God, and the pearly gates of the New Jerusalem are thrown open and swing back on their glittering hinges and the glad and joyful voice of the lovely Jesus is heard richer than any music that ever fell on mortal ear bidding us enter. [I saw] that we had a perfect right in the city for we had
kept the commandments of God, and heaven, sweet heaven is our home, for we have kept the commandments of God.” —Selected Messages Book 3, p. 260.

8. Is the Sabbath associated with the covenant of peace at the voice of God? Exodus 31:13, 16, 17

“It is at midnight that God manifests His power for the deliverance of His people. The sun appears, shining in its strength. Signs and wonders follow in quick succession. The wicked look with terror and amazement upon the scene, while the righteous behold with solemn joy the tokens of their deliverance. Everything in nature seems turned out of its course. The streams cease to flow. Dark, heavy clouds come up and clash against each other. In the midst of the angry heavens is one clear space of indescribable glory, whence comes the voice of God like the sound of many waters, saying: "It is done."

“The voice of God is heard from heaven, declaring the day and hour of Jesus' coming, and delivering the everlasting covenant to His people. Like peals of loudest thunder His words roll through the earth. The Israel of God stand listening, with their eyes fixed upward. Their countenances are lighted up with His glory, and shine as did the face of Moses when he came down from Sinai. The wicked cannot look upon them. And when the blessing is pronounced on those who have honored God by keeping His Sabbath holy, there is a mighty shout of victory.” —The Great Controversy, pp. 636, 640.
Fortifying our Endurance

*But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.*
*Matthew 24:13*

**OBJECTIVES**

- To take account of the challenges facing us to remain loyal to God at the end.
- To understand the subtle inroads of Satan that erode our endurance.
- To know the truths by which we may fortify our ability to endure.

**ENDURANCE TESTS**

1. *How does Jesus describe the challenges and threats of the last days?* Matthew 24:12, i.e. 2 Timothy 3:1-5

“"The Lord Jesus, on the Mount of Olives, plainly stated that "because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold." He speaks of a class who have fallen from a high state of spirituality. Let such utterances as these come home with solemn, searching power to our hearts. Where is the fervor, the devotion to God, that corresponds to the greatness of the truth which we claim to believe? The love of the world, the love of some darling sin, has weaned the heart from the love of prayer and of meditation on sacred things. A formal round of religious services is kept up; but where is the love of Jesus? Spirituality is dying. Is this torpor, this mournful deterioration, to be perpetuated? Is the lamp of truth to flicker and go out in darkness because it is not replenished by the oil of grace?” —*Testimonies for the Church* Vol. 5, p. 358.
2. Does Inspiration clearly delineate what will test our endurance? 2 Timothy 2:3; 1 Peter 2:19

“The season of distress and anguish before us will require a faith that can endure weariness, delay, and hunger—a faith that will not faint though severely tried. The period of probation is granted to all to prepare for that time. Jacob prevailed because he was persevering and determined. His victory is an evidence of the power of importunate prayer. All who will lay hold of God's promises, as he did, and be as earnest and persevering as he was, will succeed as he succeeded. Those who are unwilling to deny self, to agonize before God, to pray long and earnestly for His blessing, will not obtain it. Wrestling with God—how few know what it is! How few have ever had their souls drawn out after God with intensity of desire until every power is on the stretch. When waves of despair which no language can express sweep over the suppliant, how few cling with unyielding faith to the promises of God.” —The Great Controversy, p. 621.

**Satan's Subtleties**

3. Contemplating the items addressed in questions one and two, wherein are we to endure? 2 Timothy 4:3; Hebrew 12:20 (first part); 2 Thessalonians 1:3-5

“Whatever sacrifice a human being could undergo Christ endured, notwithstanding Satan put forth every effort to seduce Him with temptations; but the greater the temptation, the more perfect was the sacrifice. All that was possible for man to endure in the conflict with Satan, Christ endured in His human and divine nature combined. Obedient, sinless to the last, He died for man, his substitute and surety, enduring all that men ever endure from the deceiving tempter, that man may overcome by being a partaker of the divine nature.” —Selected Messages Book 1, p. 342.
4. What are Satan’s strategies to undermine our endurance to be faithful to God’s will and commandments? Acts 13:9, 10; 2 Corinthians 11:3

“Temptations present themselves in such a way that the tempted think they see an excuse to transgress.” —Testimonies for the Church Vol. 5, p. 597.

“Let it be war, war, to the end of earth's history, rather than peace through apostasy and sin.

“The work of apostasy begins in some secret rebellion of the heart against the requirements of God's law. Unholy desires, unlawful ambitions, are cherished and indulged, and unbelief and darkness separate the soul from God. If we do not overcome these evils they will overcome us. . . .

“The indulgence of spiritual pride, of unholy desires, of evil thoughts, of anything that separates us from an intimate and sacred association with Jesus, imperils our souls. . . . We must "fight the good fight of faith," if we would "lay hold on eternal life" (1 Timothy 6:12). We are "kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation" (1 Peter 1:5). If the thought of apostasy is grievous to you, . . . then "abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good" (Romans 12:9); and believe in Him who is "able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy."” —God’s Amazing Grace, p. 333.

5. Is there a particular state of mind by which we will endure the undermining efforts of Satan? 1 Peter 5:6-9

“Already the judgments of God are abroad in the land, as seen in storms, in floods, in tempests, in earthquakes, in peril by land and by sea. The great I AM is speaking to those who make void His law. When God's wrath is poured out upon the earth, who will then be able to stand? Now is the time
for God's people to show themselves true to principle. When the religion of Christ is most held in contempt, when His law is most despised, then should our zeal be the warmest and our courage and firmness the most unflinching. To stand in defense of truth and righteousness when the majority forsake us, to fight the battles of the Lord when champions are few--this will be our test. At this time we must gather warmth from the coldness of others, courage from their cowardice, and loyalty from their treason. The nation will be on the side of the great rebel leader.” —Testimonies for the Church Vol. 5, p. 136.

**HOW TO FORTIFY**

**6. In the light of our endurance tests of our time and worse to come, what must we do to fortify ourselves? 1 Peter 1:13**

“As we see the weakness of human nature, instead of trying to justify ourselves in wrongdoing, let us become more familiar with the word of God. It will strengthen our minds in the time of temptation. We do not think half enough upon the Bible. The ministers may explain the Scriptures, but this is not enough; we must practice their teaching in our lives. We must be fortifying our souls with the precious promises of Jesus. We are to avail ourselves of all the help God has provided for us, that we may not fall at last. If it is not in accordance with your inclination to study the word of God, I beg of you to plead with God for his divine Spirit; for those who love Jesus take comfort in communion with him.” —The Signs of the Times, August 29, 1892.

**7. Does Inspiration magnify the fortifying power of Bible study?**
John 5:38, 39; Ephesians 6:13-18

“Times that will try men's souls are just before us, and those who are weak in the faith will not stand the test of those days of peril. The great truths of revelation are to be carefully studied, for we shall all want an intelligent
knowledge of the word of God. By Bible study and daily communion with Jesus we shall gain clear, well-defined views of individual responsibility and strength to stand in the day of trial and temptation. He whose life is united to Christ by hidden links will be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.” —*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 5*, p. 273.

8. **How earnestly and dilligently are we to apply ourselves to the study of the Bible in order to stand victoriously to the very end?**

2 Peter 1:2-10

“More thought should be given to the things of God, and less to temporal matters. The world-loving professor, if he will exercise his mind in that direction, may become as familiar with the word of God as he now is with worldly business. "Search the Scriptures," said Christ; "for in them ye think ye have eternal life; and they are they which testify of Me." The Christian is required to be diligent in searching the Scriptures, to read over and over again the truths of God's word. Willful ignorance on this subject endangers the Christian life and character. It blinds the understanding and corrupts the noblest powers. It is this that brings confusion into our lives. Our people need to understand the oracles of God; they need to have a systematic knowledge of the principles of revealed truth, which will fit them for what is coming upon the earth and prevent them from being carried about by every wind of doctrine.

“Great changes are soon to take place in the world, and everyone will need an experimental knowledge of the things of God.” —*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 5*, p. 273.
The Latter Rain

*My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass.*
*Deuteronomy 32:2*

**OBJECTIVES**

- To appreciate the need of the Holy Spirit to help us in our fortifying study of Scripture.
- To comprehend the real meaning of the term “latter rain”.
- To understand the value of the latter rain for the last days.

**HELP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

1. To fortify ourselves for endurance by study of the Scriptures, whose help are we to solicit? John 16:13, 14; 14:26

“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.
2. Why is it that we need the Holy Spirit to aid us in the reading and study of the Bible? 2 Peter 1:20, 21

“God designs that the plan of redemption shall come to His people as the latter rain: for they are fast losing their connection with God. They are trusting in man, and glorifying man, and their strength is proportionate to the strength of their dependence. Some matters have been opened before me which will be fulfilled ere long. We are to know more than we do at the present time. We are to comprehend the deep things of God. There are themes to be dwelt upon which are worthy of more than a passing notice. Angels have desired to look into the truths which are revealed to the people who are searching God's Word and with contrite hearts praying for wisdom, for greater lengths and breadths and heights of that knowledge which God alone can give. Hundreds of commentaries have been written upon the gospel by men who are called great, and as we near the closing scenes of this earth's history still more wonderful representations will be made. We need to study the Scriptures with humble, contrite hearts. Those who will devote their powers to the study of God's Word, and especially the prophecies referring to these last days, will be rewarded by the discovery of important truth.” —Manuscript Releases Vol. 1, p. 195.

“It is not enough to study the Bible as other books are studied. In order for it to be understood savingly, the Holy Spirit must move on the heart of the searcher. The same Spirit that inspired the Word must inspire the reader of the Word. Then will be heard the voice of heaven. "Thy Word, O God, is truth," will be the language of the soul.” —The Signs of the Times, June 25, 1902.

3. How relevant is the aid of the Holy Spirit for these stormy and confusing times leading up to the coming climax? Joel 2:28-32
“Those who are under the influence of the Spirit of God will not be fanatical, but calm and steadfast, free from extravagance in thought, word, or deed. Amid the confusion of delusive doctrines, the Spirit of God will be a guide and a shield to those who have not resisted the evidences of truth, silencing every other voice but that which comes from Him who is the truth.

“We are living in the last days, when error of a most deceptive character is accepted and believed, while truth is discarded. The Lord will hold both ministers and people responsible for the light shining upon them. He calls upon us to work diligently in gathering up the jewels of truth, and placing them in the framework of the gospel. In all their divine beauty they are to shine forth in the moral darkness of the world. This cannot be accomplished without the aid of the Holy Spirit, but with this aid we can do all things. When we are endowed with the Spirit, we take hold by faith of infinite power. There is nothing lost of that which comes from God. The Saviour of the world sends His messages to the soul, that the darkness of error may be dispelled. The work of the Spirit is immeasurably great. It is from this source that power and efficiency come to the worker for God.”

**UNDERSTANDING THE LATTER RAIN**


“It is true that in the time of the end, when God's work in the earth is closing, the earnest efforts put forth by consecrated believers under the guidance of the Holy Spirit are to be accompanied by special tokens of divine favor. Under the figure of the early and the latter rain, that falls in Eastern lands at seedtime and harvest, the Hebrew prophets foretold the bestowal of spiritual grace in extraordinary measure upon God's church. The outpouring of the Spirit in the days of the apostles was the beginning of the early, or former, rain, and glorious was the result. To the end of time the presence of the Spirit is to abide with the true church.
“But near the close of earth's harvest, a special bestowal of spiritual grace is promised to prepare the church for the coming of the Son of man. This outpouring of the Spirit is likened to the falling of the latter rain; and it is for this added power that Christians are to send their petitions to the Lord of the harvest "in the time of the latter rain." In response, "the Lord shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of rain." "He will cause to come down . . . the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain,"” —The Acts of the Apostles, p. 55.

5. Does the marginal rendition of Joel 2:23 as “a teacher of righteousness according to righteousness” verify the explanation given in Sr. White’s writings? John 14:26; Deuteronomy 32:1-4

“The more closely we adhere to the simplicity of truth, the more surely do we comprehend its deep meaning. Then if the heart is under the inspiration of the Spirit of God, it can say, "The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding to the simple" (Psalm 119:130). This means the word is interpreted by the Holy Spirit, not merely as perused by the student.

“It is not the mere letter of the words which gives the light and the understanding, but the Word is in a special manner written upon the heart, applied by the Holy Spirit. To the mind and heart consecrated to God, an increased measure of understanding is given as the light is communicated to others. . . .

“The more room one shall give for the entrance of the Word of God, the more he is enriched intellectually as well as spiritually. He will have a clearer and less biased judgment and his views will be more comprehensive. His estimates of spiritual things will be more correct. His understanding, under the working power of the Holy Spirit, is exercised to digest the truth by making it a personal benefit by the strengthening of the soul to do self-denying works.” —In Heavenly Places, p. 139.

6. With this teaching help of the Holy Spirit, are we able to see things from God’s perspective? 1 Corinthians 2:10-13, 16
“"When He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth." John 16:13. Only by the aid of that Spirit who in the beginning "was brooding upon the face of the waters;" of that Word by whom "all things were made;" of that "true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world," can the testimony of science be rightly interpreted. Only by their guidance can its deepest truths be discerned.

“Only under the direction of the Omniscient One shall we, in the study of His works, be enabled to think His thoughts after Him.” —Education, p. 134.

**LAST DAY'S REFRESHMENT**

7. How well does the figure of the latter rain portray the work of the Holy Spirit during the last days of earth's history? Acts 3:19-21

“Before the final visitation of God's judgments upon the earth there will be among the people of the Lord such a revival of primitive godliness as has not been witnessed since apostolic times. The Spirit and power of God will be poured out upon His children.

“The work will be similar to that of the Day of Pentecost. As the "former rain" was given, in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at the opening of the gospel, to cause the upspringing of the precious seed, so the "latter rain" will be given at its close for the ripening of the harvest.

“At that time the "latter rain," or refreshing from the presence of the Lord, will come, to give power to the loud voice of the third angel, and prepare the saints to stand in the period when the seven last plagues shall be poured out.” —Last Day Events, p. 186.
8. By receiving the refreshment of the Holy Spirit, what will those who partake of Him become to earth’s population? Revelation 18:4; Micah 5:7

“I heard those clothed with the armor speak forth the truth with great power. It had effect. Many had been bound; some wives by their husbands, and some children by their parents. The honest who had been prevented from hearing the truth now eagerly laid hold upon it. All fear of their relatives was gone, and the truth alone was exalted to them. They had been hungering and thirsting for truth; it was dearer and more precious than life. I asked what had made this great change. An angel answered, "It is the latter rain, the refreshing from the presence of the Lord, the loud cry of the third angel."” —Early Writings, p. 271.

MEDITATION

“No one is able to explain the Scriptures without the aid of the Holy Spirit. But when you take up the Word of God with a humble, teachable heart, the angels of God will be by your side to impress you with evidences of the truth. When the Spirit of God rests upon you, there will be no feeling of envy or jealousy in examining another's position; there will be no spirit of accusation and criticism, such as Satan inspired in the hearts of the Jewish leaders against Christ. As Christ said to Nicodemus, so I say to you, "Ye must be born again." "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:7, 3). You must have the divine mold before you can discern the sacred claims of the truth. Unless the teacher is a learner in the school of Christ, he is not fitted to teach others.” —Selected Messages Book 1, p. 411.
Appropriating the Atonement

Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises; that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. 2 Peter 1:4

OBJECTIVES

• To revisit the study of the nature of Christ.
• To grasp the practical benefit derived from the understanding of the atonement.
• To comprehend the internal fortitude this truth provides to face final storms.

THE NATURE OF CHRIST

1. How does Scripture describe the nature of Jesus? Romans 8:3; Philippians 2:6-8; Hebrews 2:17

“How wide is the contrast between the divinity of Christ and the helpless infant in Bethlehem's manger! How can we span the distance between the mighty God and a helpless child? And yet the Creator of worlds, He in whom was the fullness of the Godhead bodily, was manifest in the helpless babe in the manger. Far higher than any of the angels, equal with the Father in dignity and glory, and yet wearing the garb of humanity! Divinity and humanity were mysteriously combined, and man and God became one.” —The Faith I Live By, p. 48.
2. What is this combination of humanity with divinity called?
Romans 5:10, 11

“The incarnation of Christ is a mystery. The union of divinity with humanity is a mystery indeed, hidden with God, "even the mystery which hath been hid from ages.""

“To present to the world this mystery that God kept in silence for eternal ages before the world was created, before man was created, was the part that Christ was to act in the work He entered upon when He came to this earth. And this wonderful mystery, the incarnation of Christ and the atonement that He made, must be declared to every son and daughter of Adam. . . . His sufferings perfectly fulfilled the claims of the law of God.”

“The mysteries of redemption, embracing Christ's divine-human character, His incarnation, His atonement for sin, could employ the pens and the highest mental powers of the wisest men from now until Christ shall be revealed in the clouds of heaven in power and great glory.”

“All who comprehend the spirituality of the law, all who realize its power as a detector of sin, are in just as helpless a condition as is Satan himself, unless they accept the atonement provided for them in the remedial sacrifice of Jesus Christ, who is our atonement—at-one-ment with God.” —S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 6, pp. 1082, 1115, 1077.

A PRACTICAL BENEFIT

3. Is there admonition given by Inspiration to gain a practical understanding of the atonement? 2 Corinthians 5:18-21
“We need to be converted from our faulty lives to the faith of the Gospel. Christ's followers have no need to try to shine. If they will behold constantly the life of Christ they will be changed in mind and heart into the same image. Then they will shine without any superficial attempt. The Lord asks for no display of goodness. In the gift of His Son He has made provision that our inward lives may be imbued with the principles of heaven. It is the appropriation of this provision that will lead to a manifestation of Christ to the world. When the people of God experience the new birth, their honesty, their uprightness, their fidelity, their steadfast principles, will unfailingly reveal it.”

—Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, p. 251.

“Some who labor in word and doctrine have not a practical understanding of the law of God and its holy claims, or of the atonement of Christ. They themselves need to be converted before they can convert sinners.”

—Testimonies to the Church Vol. 2, p. 512.

4. If we absorb the practicality of the atonement, will we become at one with God? 2 Peter 1:2-4; Romans 8:14-17

“What an event was this when Christ placed Himself in the position of Adam, and endured the test where Adam had failed, and by this act placed man on a vantage ground, in favor with God, where he might overcome on his own account through the merits of Jesus. In His name, through His grace, man may be an overcomer, even as Christ was an overcomer. In Christ divinity and humanity were united, and the only way in which man may be an overcomer is through becoming a partaker of the divine nature. . . . Divinity and humanity are blended in him who has the spirit of Christ. The apostle Paul writes, "In all things it behooved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest." . . . "We have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin."”

—Sons and Daughters of God, p. 24.
“The Holy Spirit, which proceeds from the only-begotten Son of God, binds the human agent, body, soul, and spirit, to the perfect, divine-human nature of Christ. This union is represented by the union of the vine and the branches. Finite man is united to the manhood of Christ. Through faith human nature is assimilated with Christ's nature. We are made one with God in Christ.” —Selected Messages Book 1, p. 251.

5. What is our practical engagement in atonement with Jesus? Hebrews 5:7-9; 1 Peter 4:1, 2

“Shall we not realize that we must receive the Holy Spirit in our hearts, that it may mold and fashion the practical life? Shall we not strive to discern the meaning of the atonement of Christ?” —The Review and Herald, February 14, 1899.

“Christ was crucified for fallen man. But to many who call themselves Christians this event is nothing. In practise they deny the cross of Christ... They admit that Christ died on the cross, but because there is a crucifixion for them to experience, they will not receive the lessons that lead to self-denial and self-sacrifice. They are Christians in name only. The central point of their faith is not a crucified and risen Saviour, who brings to all that receive Him the privilege of being sons and daughters of God. “ —Sons and Daughters of God, p. 246.

INTERNAL FORTITUDE

6. How does Scripture convey the appreciation by which the atonement with Jesus gives internal fortitude? Colossians 1:27; Hebrews 12:2, 3

“Higher education is an experimental knowledge of the plan of salvation, and this knowledge is secured by earnest and diligent study of the Scriptures. Such an education will renew the mind and transform the
character, restoring the image of God in the soul. It will fortify the mind against the deceptive whisperings of the adversary, and enable us to understand the voice of God. It will teach the learner to become a co-worker with Jesus Christ, to dispel the moral darkness about him, and bring light and knowledge to men. It is the simplicity of true godliness—our passport from the preparatory school of earth to the higher school above.”—Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, p. 11.

7. Besides having Christ in us due to the atonement, how else are we fortified by the knowledge of His divinity combined with our humanity? Hebrews 2:17, 18; 4:14-16

“We are wanting in simple faith; we need to learn the art of trusting our very best friend. Although we see Him not, Jesus is watching over us with tender compassion; and He is touched with the feelings of our infirmities. No one in his great need ever looked to Him by faith, and was disappointed. . . . The Christian is . . . the happiest man in the world. He feels secure; for he trusts in Jesus, and enjoys His presence. His defense is "of God, which saveth the upright in heart." Do not defer this matter, but begin . . . to fix your minds more firmly upon Jesus and heavenly things, remembering that by beholding we become changed into the same image. Have courage in God.”—Lift Him Up, p. 376.

8. As we face the storms of our present days and greater storms to follow, will Christ enthroned within render us secure, unmoved? Psalms 16:8, 9; 46:1 (last part)-3, 10, 11

“The work of conquering evil is to be done through faith. Those who go into the battlefield will find that they must put on the whole armor of God.
The shield of faith will be their defense and will enable them to be more than conquerors. Nothing else will avail but this—faith in the Lord of hosts, and obedience to His orders. Vast armies furnished with every other facility will avail nothing in the last great conflict. Without faith, an angel host could not help. Living faith alone will make them invincible and enable them to stand in the evil day, steadfast, unmoving, holding the beginning of their confidence firm unto the end.” —*God’s Amazing Grace*, p. 33.

“I thank God for the assurance of His love, and that I have daily His leading and guidance. 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. The promise of Christ is sure. The time is not long. We must work and watch and wait for the Lord Jesus. We are called upon to be steadfast, unmoving, always abounding in the work of the Lord. All our hopes have their foundation in Christ.” —*Selected Messages Book 1*, p. 56.
Assembling, 
So Much the More

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. Hebrews 10:25

OBJECTIVES

• To understand the importance of fellowship.
• To realise that the church is an army in conquering action.
• To see the importance of regular attendance to fortify our prospect of victory.

FELLOWSHIP

1. Does the Lord in the Bible stress the importance of interrelating in church fellowship? 1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 20-22

“In the varied lines of Christ's work, each part depends on the other part. God has made provision for reciprocal action and mutual relation of all animated beings. He has made arrangements that all shall be connected together, and the whole to God. No one can be dropped out of the Lord's plan without affecting the whole. Nothing is independent of the rest. In creating Adam and Eve as our parents, God designed that each human being should stand related to the rest, to be a part of the web of humanity.”
—Manuscript Releases Vol 5, p. 369.
2. Are we dependent on each other for edification and Christian growth? Ephesians 4:15, 16

“In the plan of redemption a place is allotted to every soul. To each man is given his work. No one can be a member of Christ's body and yet be inactive. . . . The work of God's people may and will be varied, but one Spirit is the mover in it all. All the work done for the Master is to be connected with the great whole. The workers are to labor together in concert, each one controlled by divine power, putting forth undivided effort to draw those around them to Christ. All must move like parts of a well-adjusted machinery, each part dependent on the other part, yet standing distinct in action. And each one is to take the place assigned him and do the work appointed him. God calls upon the members of His church to receive the Holy Spirit, to come together in unity and brotherly sympathy, to bind their interests together in love.” —My Life Today, p. 276.

3. What is the admonition of Inspiration in reference to church unity? Philippians 2:1-3

“The secret of our success in the work of God will be found in the harmonious working of our people. There must be concentrated action. Every member of the body of Christ must act his part in the cause of God, according to the ability that God has given him. We must press together against obstructions and difficulties, shoulder to shoulder, heart to heart.” —Christian Service, p. 75.

“I saw that the enemy is busy to destroy souls. Exaltation has come into the ranks; there must be more humility. There is too much of an independence of spirit indulged in among the messengers. This must be laid aside, and there must be a drawing together of the servants of God. There has been too much of a spirit to ask, "Am I my brother's keeper?"
Said the angel: "Yea, thou art thy brother's keeper. Thou shouldest have a watchful care for thy brother, be interested for his welfare, and cherish a kind, loving spirit toward him. Press together, press together." God designed that man should be openhearted and honest, without affectation, meek, humble, with simplicity. This is the principle of heaven; God ordered it so. But poor, frail man has sought out something different--to follow his own way, and carefully attend to his own self-interest.”
—Testimonies to the Church Vol. 1, p. 113.

ARMY WITH BANNERS

4. How is the church described, especially in the time of the end? Song of Solomon 6:8-10

“Clad in the armor of Christ's righteousness, the church is to enter upon her final conflict. "Fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners," she is to go forth into all the world, conquering and to conquer.” —My Life Today, p. 311.

5. If the church is similar to an army, does Inspiration describe the part each member fills in the army? 2 Timothy 2:3, 4

“The Lord in His providence selected you to be more directly connected with His cause and work. He took you, like an undisciplined soldier, new to the army, and brought you under rules, regulations, and responsibilities, and through the drilling process.” —Testimonies for the Church Vol. 4, p. 91.

“The church of Christ may be fitly compared to an army. The life of every soldier is one of toil, hardship, and danger. On every hand are vigilant foes, led on by the prince of the powers of darkness, who never slumbers and never deserts his post. Whenever a Christian is off his guard, this powerful adversary makes a sudden and violent attack. Unless the
members of the church are active and vigilant, they will be overcome by his devices.”

“The Master calls for gospel workers. Who will respond? All who enter the army are not to be generals, captains, sergeants, or even corporals. All have not the care and responsibility of leaders. There is hard work of other kinds to be done. Some must dig trenches and build fortifications; some are to stand as sentinels, some to carry messages. While there are but few officers, it requires many soldiers to form the rank and file of the army; yet its success depends upon the fidelity of every soldier. One man's cowardice or treachery may bring disaster upon the entire army.” — *Testimonies for the Church* Vol. 5, p. 394.

### 6. Is there given a description of the war the remnant of God’s people are involved in? Revelation 12:17

“In vision I saw two armies in terrible conflict. One army was led by banners bearing the world's insignia; the other was led by the bloodstained banner of Prince Immanuel.”

“The battle raged. Victory alternated from side to side. Now the soldiers of the cross gave way, ”as when a standardbearer fainteth." Isaiah 10:18. But their apparent retreat was but to gain a more advantageous position. Shouts of joy were heard. A song of praise to God went up, and angel voices united in the song, as Christ's soldiers planted His banner on the walls of fortresses till then held by the enemy. The Captain of our salvation was ordering the battle and sending support to His soldiers. His power was mightily displayed, encouraging them to press the battle to the gates. He taught them terrible things in righteousness as He led them on step by step, conquering and to conquer.

“At last the victory was gained. The army following the banner with the inscription, "The commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus," was gloriously triumphant. The soldiers of Christ were close beside the gates of the city, and with joy the city received her King. The kingdom of peace and joy and everlasting righteousness was established.” — *Testimonies for the Church* Vol. 8, p. 41.
IMPORTANCE OF ASSEMBLY

7. How are our church assemblies to be regarded by the members? Micah 4:6, 7; Ecclesiastes 12:10, 11

“For hours, soldiers are drilled to disencumber themselves of their knapsacks, and place them quickly in position again upon the person. They are taught how to stack their arms, and how to seize them quickly. They are drilled in making a charge against the enemy, and are trained in all kinds of maneuvers. Thus the drill goes on, preparing men for any emergency. And should those who are fighting the battle for Prince Emmanuel be less earnest and painstaking in their preparation for the spiritual warfare?” —Christian Service, p. 63.

8. In consideration of the intensity of the battles of the last days and our need to be thoroughly drilled for victory, is it then of vital importance to attend every assembly? Zephaniah 2:1-3; Hebrews 10:24, 25

“But every one who has espoused the cause of Christ, who has offered himself as a soldier in the Lord's army, should place himself where he may have faithful drill. Religion has meant altogether too little to the professed followers of Christ; for it is not the will of God that any one should remain ignorant when wisdom and knowledge have been placed within reach.” —Fundamentals of Christian Education, p. 217.

“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.
“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.” —Counsels for the Church, pp. 336, 337.
Prayer and Fasting

And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me. Psalm 50:15

OBJECTIVES

• To study the true meaning of prayer.
• To be informed as to the true fast.
• To understand the value of prayer and fasting to fortify our hearts.

TRUE PRAYER

1. What does it mean to pray effectively? Matthew 7:7, 8; James 4:3; Jeremiah 29:12, 13

“But the petitions of a humble heart and contrite spirit He will not despise. The opening of our hearts to our heavenly Father, the acknowledgment of our entire dependence, the expression of our wants, the homage of grateful love --this is true prayer.” —Child Guidance, p. 518.

2. Did Jesus reveal the kind of prayer necessary to stand in the last days? Mark 13:33; Matthew 26:41
“First, you are to watch. Watch, lest you should speak hastily, fretfully, and impatiently. Watch, lest pride should find a place in your heart. Watch, lest evil passions should overcome you, instead of your subduing them. Watch, lest . . . you . . . become light and trifling, and your influence savor of death, rather than life.

“Second, you are to pray. Jesus would not have enjoined this upon you, unless there was actual necessity for it. It is well known to Him that of yourself you cannot overcome the many temptations of the enemy, and the many snares laid for your feet. He has not left you alone to do this; but has provided a way that you can obtain help. Therefore He has bid you to pray.

“Faint not. Cast yourself at the feet of Jesus, who has been tempted, and knows how to help such as are tempted. . . . Plead your case before God, through Jesus, until your soul can with confidence rely upon Him for strength, and you feel that you are not left to do the work of overcoming alone. God will help you. Angels will watch over you. But before you can expect this help, you must do what you can on your part. Watch and pray.”
—*The Faith I Live By*, p. 224.

3. **How intense an attitude is described by Inspiration of effectual prayer before and during the time of Jacob’s trouble?**

   *Ephesians 6:18; Luke 22:44*

   “Jacob prevailed because he was persevering and determined. His victory is an evidence of the power of importunate prayer. All who will lay hold of God's promises, as he did, and be as earnest and persevering as he was, will succeed as he succeeded. Those who are unwilling to deny self, to agonize before God, to pray long and earnestly for His blessing, will not obtain it. Wrestling with God--how few know what it is! How few have ever had their souls drawn out after God with intensity of desire until every power is on the stretch. When waves of despair which no language can express sweep over the suppliant, how few cling with unyielding faith to the promises of God.”
—*The Great Controversy*, p. 621.
AND FASTING

4. In the intensity of our present and future conflicts, how are our prayers to be supported? Joel 2:12, 13

“In order to succeed in such a conflict they must come to the work in a different spirit. Their faith must be strengthened by fervent prayer and fasting, and humiliation of heart. They must be emptied of self, and be filled with the Spirit and power of God. Earnest, persevering supplication to God in faith--faith that leads to entire dependence upon God, and unreserved consecration to His work--can alone avail to bring men the Holy Spirit's aid in the battle against principalities and powers, the rulers of the darkness of this world, and wicked spirits in high places.”
—The Desire of Ages, p. 431.

5. What is meant by fasting? Isaiah 58:3-7

“Now and onward till the close of time the people of God should be more earnest, more wide-awake, not trusting in their own wisdom, but in the wisdom of their Leader. They should set aside days for fasting and prayer. Entire abstinence from food may not be required, but they should eat sparingly of the most simple food.”

“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 Food, p. 188.
**FORTIFYING BENEFITS**

6. Can we find assurance from God, if we call upon Him with prayer and fasting, that He will support us in the days of trouble ahead and now? Psalms 50:15; 91:14, 15

“True prayer takes hold upon Omnipotence and gives us the victory. Upon his knees the Christian obtains strength to resist temptation. . . . The silent, fervent prayer of the soul will rise like holy incense to the throne of grace and will be as acceptable to God as if offered in the sanctuary. To all who thus seek Him, Christ becomes a present help in time of need. They will be strong in the day of trial.” —*God’s Amazing Grace*, p. 86.

7. Will prayer and fasting fortify us when we meet the storms of opposition in reference to our beliefs? Proverbs 22:17-21; 1 Peter 3:14, 15

“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
“The Lord says, "Call upon me in the day of trouble" (Psalm 50:15). He invites us to present to Him our perplexities and necessities, and our need of divine help. He bids us be instant in prayer. As soon as difficulties arise, we are to offer to Him our sincere, earnest petitions. By our importunate prayers we give evidence of our strong confidence in God. The sense of our need leads us to pray earnestly, and our heavenly Father is moved by our supplications.

“Often those who suffer reproach or persecution for their faith are tempted to think themselves forsaken by God. In the eyes of men they are in the minority. To all appearance their enemies triumph over them. But let them not violate their conscience. He who has suffered in their behalf, and has borne their sorrows and afflictions, has not forsaken them.

“The children of God are not left alone and defenseless. Prayer moves the arm of Omnipotence. Prayer has "subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire"--we shall know what it means when we hear the reports of the martyrs who died for their faith--"turned to flight the armies of the aliens."” —Ye Shall Receive Power, p. 132.

8. What assurances are given us if we call upon God with all our hearts? Jeremiah 29:11-14
Fortifying the Evidences of Truth

*That I might make thee know the certainty of the words of truth: that thou mightest answer the words of truth to them that send unto thee.*

*Proverbs 22:21*

**OBJECTIVES**

- To revisit the storms of conflict over the doctrines of truth at the end.
- To appreciate the importance of understanding the evidences of our faith.
- To know how to establish the evidences of truth.

**WINDS OF DOCTRINE**

1. *Does Scripture describe the confusion of doctrines being circulated in the last days? Matthew 24:24; 1 Timothy 4:1, 2*

“The light given me has been very forcible that many would go out from us, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. The Lord desires that every soul who claims to believe the truth shall have an intelligent knowledge of what is truth. False prophets will arise and will deceive many. Everything is to be shaken that can be shaken.” —*Selected Messages Book 2*, p. 392.

“The days are fast approaching when there will be great perplexity and confusion. Satan, clothed in angel robes, will deceive, if possible, the very elect. There will be gods many and lords many. Every wind of doctrine will be blowing.” —*Maranatha*, p. 200.
2. With the blowing of every wind of doctrine, will there be an associated persecution at the hand of false teachers?
Matthew 24:48, 49; Psalm 64:2-6

“As the storm approaches, a large class who have professed faith in the third angel's message, but have not been sanctified through obedience to the truth, abandon their position and join the ranks of the opposition. By uniting with the world and partaking of its spirit, they have come to view matters in nearly the same light; and when the test is brought, they are prepared to choose the easy, popular side. Men of talent and pleasing address, who once rejoiced in the truth, employ their powers to deceive and mislead souls. They become the most bitter enemies of their former brethren. When Sabbathkeepers are brought before the courts to answer for their faith, these apostates are the most efficient agents of Satan to misrepresent and accuse them, and by false reports and insinuations to stir up the rulers against them.” —The Great Controversy, p. 608.

“As soon as the evil servant begins to lose the spirit and power of the message, he manifests his unbelief. He smites his fellow-servants. He is ready to pass censure on those who are better than himself. "The poison of asps is under their lips." His course is downward. Erelong he may be found "eating and drinking with the drunken"—uniting with worldlings in their gatherings for pleasure, and, to all intents and purposes, one with them. Such is the condition of very many among us today.” —The Signs of the Times, December 7, 1882.

TO UNDERSTAND EVIDENCES

3. In the light of question two, what is the nature of the perplexity we will meet if we don’t understand the evidences of our faith?
2 Timothy 4:3, 4
“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.” —*Testimonies for the Church* Vol. 5, p. 707.

“My brethren, do you realize that your own salvation, as well as the destiny of other souls, depends upon the preparation you now make for the trial before us? Have you that intensity of zeal, that piety and devotion, which will enable you to stand when opposition shall be brought against you? If God has ever spoken by me, the time will come when you will be brought before councils, and every position of truth which you hold will be severely criticized. The time that so many are now allowing to go to waste should be devoted to the charge that God has given us of preparing for the approaching crisis.” —*Counsels for the Church*, p. 336.

4. **Does Inspiration call upon us to establish ourselves in sound doctrine? Proverbs 2:1-10; 1 Timothy 4:16**

“Of all men upon the face of the earth, those who are handling solemn truths for these perilous times should understand their Bibles and become acquainted with the evidences of our faith.” —*Testimonies for the Church* Vol. 2, p. 342.

“Many have accepted the truth without digging down deep to understand its foundation principles, and when it is opposed, they forget the arguments
and evidences that sustain it. It should be impressed upon all that true and abiding knowledge can be gained only by earnest labor and persevering energy. Were the minds of the people brought under discipline by thorough searching of the Scriptures, there would be hundreds converted to the truth where there is one today.” —This Day With God, p. 18.

**TO ESTABLISH THE EVIDENCES**

5. To receive the correct understanding of Bible evidences, how should we approach the study of the Bible? Isaiah 66:2; 1 Corinthians 8:2

“If we would not have the Scriptures clouded to our understanding, so that the plainest truths shall not be comprehended, we must have the simplicity and faith of a little child, ready to learn, and beseeching the aid of the Holy Spirit. A sense of the power and wisdom of God, and of our inability to comprehend His greatness, should inspire us with humility, and we should open His word, as we would enter His presence, with holy awe. When we come to the Bible, reason must acknowledge an authority superior to itself, and heart and intellect must bow to the great I AM.

“We shall advance in true spiritual knowledge only as we realize our own littleness and our entire dependence upon God; but all who come to the Bible with a teachable and prayerful spirit, to study its utterances as the word of God, will receive divine enlightenment. There are many things apparently difficult or obscure which God will make plain and simple to those who thus seek an understanding of them.” —Testimonies for the Church Vol. 5, pp. 703, 704.

6. Upon whom are we to rely to establish the evidences of truth? 2 Peter 1:20, 21; John 16:13, 14
“And Jesus will see us also in the secret places of prayer if we will seek Him for light that we may know what is truth. Angels from the world of light will be with those who in humility of heart seek for divine guidance.”
—Steps to Christ, p. 91.

“They go to the Source of light, the One who has inspired the Scriptures, and with humility of heart ask God for wisdom, and they receive it.”

“Without the guidance of the Holy Spirit we shall be continually liable to wrest the Scriptures or to misinterpret them. There is much reading of the Bible that is without profit and in many cases is a positive injury. When the word of God is opened without reverence and without prayer; when the thoughts and affections are not fixed upon God or in harmony with His will, the mind is clouded with doubt; and in the very study of the Bible, skepticism strengthens. The enemy takes control of the thoughts, and he suggests interpretations that are not correct.”

“When we are truly seeking to do God's will, the Holy Spirit takes the precepts of His word and makes them the principles of the life, writing them on the tablets of the soul. And it is only those who are following the light already given that can hope to receive the further illumination of the Spirit. This is plainly stated in the words of Christ: "If any man will do His will, he shall know of the doctrine."”  
—Testimonies for the Church Vol. 5, pp. 704, 705.

7. With the aid of the Holy Spirit, how are we to search for the evidences? Isaiah 28:9, 10; 2 Timothy 2:15

“The Scriptures were given to men, not in a continuous chain of unbroken utterances, but piece by piece through successive generations, as God in His providence saw a fitting opportunity to impress man at sundry times and divers places. Men wrote as they were moved upon by the Holy Ghost. There is "first the bud, then the blossom, and next the fruit," "first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear." This is exactly what the Bible utterances are to us.”  
—Selected Messages Book 1, p. 19.
“But the student of the word of God should seek to understand the bearing of one passage upon another until the chain of truth is revealed to his vision. As veins of precious ore are hidden beneath the surface of the earth, so spiritual riches are concealed in the passage of Holy Writ, and it requires mental effort and prayerful attention to discover the hidden meaning of the word of God. Let every student who values the heavenly treasure put to the stretch his mental and spiritual powers, and sink the shaft deep into the mine of truth, that he may obtain the celestial gold,—that wisdom which will make him wise unto salvation.” —*Fundamentals of Christian Education*, p. 169.

8. **As we piece together all the individual quotes into that connected chain, how carefully must we take each quote?** Isaiah 34:16; Proverbs 30:5, 6

“The language of the Bible should be explained according to its obvious meaning, unless a symbol or figure is employed. Christ has given the promise: "If any man will do His will, he shall know of the doctrine." John 7:17. If men would but take the Bible as it reads, if there were no false teachers to mislead and confuse their minds, a work would be accomplished that would make angels glad and that would bring into the fold of Christ thousands upon thousands who are now wandering in error.”

—*The Great Controversy*, p. 598.
Discarding All Doubt

For thus saith the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel; In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength. Isaiah 30:15

OBJECTIVES

• To understand the source of our doubts.
• To study God’s way of resolving the groundswell of our doubts.
• To know how to fortify ourselves inwardly to meet the final storms of life.

THE SOURCE OF DOUBTS

1. Is there an internal conflict that plagues every human being which renders him helpless in times of life’s disastrous storms?
   Romans 7:15, 18, 19, 21, 24

“Grief, anxiety, discontent, remorse, guilt, distrust, all tend to break down the life forces and to invite decay and death.”

“The sense of sinfulness has poisoned the springs of life and true happiness.” —Lift Him Up, p. 256.

“I was shown the case of Brother U’s wife. She has a desire to do right, but has failings which cause herself and her friends much trouble. She talks too much. She lacks experience in the things of God, and unless she is converted and transformed by the renewing of the mind, she will be unable to stand amid the perils of the last days.” —Testimonies for the Church Vol. 2, p. 185.
2. How does this internal conflict impact the sense of the soul? Psalm 40:12

“You are a young man of intelligence; you desire to make your life such as will fit you for heaven at last. You are often discouraged at finding yourself weak in moral power, in slavery to doubt, and controlled by the habits and customs of your old life in sin. You find your emotional nature untrue to yourself, to your best resolutions, and to your most solemn pledges. Nothing seems real. Your own instability leads you to doubt the sincerity of those who would do you good. The more you struggle in doubt, the more unreal everything looks to you, until it seems that there is no solid ground for you anywhere. Your promises are like ropes of sand, and you regard in the same unreal light the words and works of those in whom you should trust.” —Messages to Young People, p. 151.

**GOD’S SOLUTION**

3. What counsel comes from God’s word when the soul is overcome by internal doubts? Psalm 42:5-8

“Those for whom you labor are your brethren in distress, suffering from physical disorders and the spiritual leprosy of sin. If you are any better than they, it is to be credited to the cross of Christ. Many are without God and without hope in the world. They are guilty, corrupt, and degraded, enslaved by Satan's devices. Yet these are the ones whom Christ came from heaven to redeem. They are subjects for tenderest pity, sympathy, and tireless effort, for they are on the verge of ruin. They suffer from ungratified desires, disordered passions, and the condemnation of their own consciences; they are miserable in every sense of the word, for they are losing their hold on this life and have no prospect for the life to come.”

“Those who put their trust in Christ are not to be enslaved by any hereditary or cultivated habit or tendency. Instead of being held in bondage
to the lower nature, they are to rule every appetite and passion. God has not left us to battle with evil in our own finite strength. Whatever may be our inherited or cultivated tendencies to wrong, we can overcome through the power that He is ready to impart.” —Counsels on Health, pp. 385, 440.

4. How does the credit of the cross of Christ come into effect to relieve the soul’s guilt and anguish? Romans 8:2-4, i.e. Lamentations 1:12-14

“How few have any conception of the anguish which rent the heart of the Son of God during His thirty years of life upon earth. The path from the manger to Calvary was shadowed by sorrow and grief. He was the Man of Sorrows, and endured such heartache as no human language can portray. He could have said in truth, "Behold, and see if there be any sorrow like unto my sorrow" (Lamentations 1:12). His suffering was the deepest anguish of the soul; and what man could have sympathy with the soul anguish of the Son of the infinite God? Hating sin with a perfect hatred, He yet gathered to His soul the sins of the whole world, as He trod the path to Calvary, suffering the penalty of the transgressor. Guiltless, He bore the punishment of the guilty; innocent, yet offering Himself to bear the penalty of the transgression of the law of God. The punishment of the sins of every soul was borne by the Son of the infinite God. The guilt of every sin pressed its weight upon the divine soul of the world's Redeemer. He who knew no sin became sin for us that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him. In assuming the nature of man, He placed Himself where He was wounded for our transgressions, bruised for our iniquities, that by His stripes we might be healed.” —That I May Know Him, p. 66.

5. If we permit our minds to dwell upon the realities described in question four, will this diffuse our doubts? Hebrews 12:1-3
“When the gospel is received in its purity and power, it is a cure for the maladies that originated in sin. The Sun of Righteousness arises, "with healing in His wings." Malachi 4:2. Not all this world bestows can heal a broken heart, or impart peace of mind, or remove care, or banish disease. Fame, genius, talent—all are powerless to gladden the sorrowful heart or to restore the wasted life. The life of God in the soul is man's only hope.

“The love which Christ diffuses through the whole being is a vitalizing power. Every vital part—the brain, the heart, the nerves—it touches with healing. By it the highest energies of the being are roused to activity. It frees the soul from the guilt and sorrow, the anxiety and care, that crush the life forces. With it come serenity and composure. It implants in the soul, joy that nothing earthly can destroy—joy in the Holy Spirit—health-giving, life-giving joy.” —Counsels for the Church, p. 216.

**ACTING ON GOD'S SOLUTION**

6. In the light of the previous three questions, can we take to heart the following assurances? Isaiah 42:3, 4; 38:17; 41:10

“Some have limited views of the atonement. They think that Christ suffered only a small portion of the penalty of the law of God; they suppose that, while the wrath of God was felt by His dear Son, He had, through all His painful sufferings, the evidence of His Father’s love and acceptance; that the portals of the tomb before Him were illuminated with bright hope, and that He had the abiding evidence of His future glory. Here is a great mistake. Christ’s keenest anguish was a sense of His Father’s displeasure. His mental agony because of this was of such intensity that many can have but faint conception of it. . . .

“The length, the breadth, the height, the depth, of such amazing love we cannot fathom. The contemplation of the matchless depths of a Savior’s love should fill the mind, touch and melt the soul, refine and elevate the affections, and completely transform the whole character.” —To Be Like Jesus, p. 19.
7. What shall we do with our internal conflicts which lead to doubt?
Matthew 21:21, 22

“Jesus sees the guilt of the past, and speaks pardon, and we must not dishonor Him by doubting His love. This feeling of guiltiness must be laid at the foot of the cross of Calvary. The sense of sinfulness has poisoned the springs of life and of true happiness. Now Jesus says, "Lay it all on Me. I will take your sins; I will give you peace. Banish no longer your self-respect, for I have bought you with the price of My own blood. You are Mine. Your weakened will I will strengthen; your remorse for sin I will remove." Then turn your grateful heart, trembling with uncertainty, to Him and lay hold on the hope set before you. God accepts your broken, contrite heart, and extends to you free pardon. He offers to adopt you into His family, with His grace to help your weakness, and the dear Saviour will lead you on step by step, you placing your hand in His and letting Him guide you.” —That I May Know Him, p. 241.

8. But opening our hearts to the love of God displayed in Jesus and thus diffusing and banishing our doubts, will this give us the tranquility and restful quietness to come safely through the final storms? Isaiah 30:15; 32:17-19; Proverbs 3:21-26

“There is joy and consolation for the true-hearted, faithful Christian, that the world knows not of. To them it is a mystery. The Christian's hope is big with immortality and full of glory. It reacheth to that within the veil, and is as an anchor to the soul, both sure and steadfast. And when the storm of God's wrath shall come upon the ungodly, this hope will not fail them, but they are hid as in the secret of His pavilion.”
"He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty." "Because thou hast made the Lord, which is my refuge, even the Most High, thy habitation; there shall no evil befall thee. . . . For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways." —Sons and Daughters of God, p. 354.
Fortifying Prophetic Understanding

And now I have told you before it come to pass, that, when it come to pass, ye might believe. John 14:29

OBJECTIVES

• To consolidate our appreciation of the value of prophecy.
• To realise the importance of prophecy illuminating present truth.
• To behold fulfilling prophecy pertaining to present unfolding events.

SURE WORD OF PROPHECY

1. What assurance does prophecy provide for us to believe the truth of the Bible? 2 Peter 1:16-19

“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 might be confirmed and securely anchored. "We have also," Peter declared, "a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the daystar arise in your hearts: knowing this first, that no prophecy of the Scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."” —The Acts of the Apostles, p. 534.
2. As we behold events taking place before us that prophecy has spoken of long before, did Jesus confirm this as a source of faith? John 14:29; 13:19

“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.

PRESENT TRUTH

3. If the Jews would have studied and believed the prophecies of Christ’s first advent, would they have recognised their present truth and been saved? Luke 19:41, 42

“Christ had come at the exact time and in the manner foretold by prophecy. The testimony of Scripture had been fulfilled in every detail of His ministry. He had preached the message of salvation, and "His word was with power." The hearts of His hearers had witnessed that it was of Heaven. The word and the Spirit of God attested the divine commission of His Son.” —The Great Controversy, p. 346.

“That which Christ had specified would be His work was fulfilled. The sick were healed, demoniacs were restored, lepers and paralytics were made whole. The dumb spake, the ears of the deaf were opened, the dead were brought to life, and the poor had the gospel preached to them. . . . Every miracle wrought by Christ convinced some of them of His true character, which answered to the specifications of the Messiah of prophecy, but those who did not receive the light of heaven set themselves more determinedly against this evidence.” —Christ Triumphant, p. 243.
4. Does Inspiration clearly urge us to heed the prophecies that reveal present truth? 2 Peter 1:10-12

“There was a present truth--a truth at that time of special importance--in the days of Christ, of Paul, of Luther; there is a present truth for the church today. But truth is no more desired by the men of today than it was by the Jews in the time of Christ, or by papists in the days of Luther. Therefore Satan, working now with tenfold greater power, succeeds as of old in blinding the eyes of men and darkening their understanding.” —The Signs of the Times, June 21, 1883.

“In this age the Lord is sending his servants with no ordinary message, but with special truths that must come before believers of every rank and tongue. Many of our church-members have never studied fully into the more sure word of prophecy, and do not understand the facts that have made us what we are. All should bring into exercise the powers of the intellect, that they may clearly understand the different phases of present truth, and especially the subjects of prophecy which were opened to us when the message of Christ's soon coming was first heralded.” —The Review and Herald, April 2, 1908.

**PROPHECIES FOR THE PRESENT**

5. Do the words of Apostle Peter regarding the importance of heeding prophecy apply to us today as well? 2 Peter 1:19; Daniel 8:19

“As we near the close of this world's history, the prophecies relating to the last days especially demand our study. The last book of the New Testament scriptures is full of truth that we need to understand. Satan has blinded the minds of many, so that they have been glad of any excuse for not making the Revelation their study. But Christ through His servant John has here declared what shall be in the last days, and He says, "Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein."” —Christ's Object Lessons, p. 133.
6. As we trace the prophecies and their fulfillment since 1844, what specific prophetic detail illuminates and fortifies us at this present time? Revelation 12:17; Luke 21:25, 26, 31-36

“I was shown the inhabitants of the earth in the utmost confusion. War, bloodshed, privation, want, famine, and pestilence were abroad in the land. . . . My attention was then called from the scene. There seemed to be a little time of peace. Once more the inhabitants of the earth were presented before me; and again everything was in the utmost confusion. Strife, war, and bloodshed, with famine and pestilence, raged everywhere. Other nations were engaged in this war and confusion. War caused famine. Want and bloodshed caused pestilence. And then men's hearts failed them for fear, "and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth."


7. Being able to recognise the time of the First and Second World Wars described in the note of question six, how clearly does prophecy mark our present experience? Daniel 11:40, 45

“The world is stirred with the spirit of war. The prophecy of the eleventh chapter of Daniel has nearly reached its complete fulfillment. Soon the scenes of trouble spoken of in the prophecies will take place.” —Testimonies for the Church Vol. 9, p. 14.

8. Besides the benefit of knowing ahead of time what is to come in order to prepare ourselves, is there another important reason to know and understand prophecy? Isaiah 46:9, 10; 48:17, 18
“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. . . .

“We need to study the working out of God's purpose in the history of nations and in the revelation of things to come, that we may estimate at their true value things seen and things unseen; that we may learn what is the true aim of life; that, viewing the things of time in the light of eternity, we may put them to their truest and noblest use.” —The Faith I Live By, p. 168.
Hiding in God’s Pavilion

For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock. Psalm 27:5

OBJECTIVES

• To reflect upon the sealing message.
• To understand our hiding place when last-day storms rage.
• To summarise the protection found in the truths studied in these last six months.

THE SEALING REALITY

1. In our study of God’s purpose in history and the true aim of life manifested through prophecy, what have we arrived at regarding the storms of the end? Isaiah 24:4-6; Revelation 7:1-3

“Four mighty angels hold back the powers of this earth till the servants of God are sealed in their foreheads. The nations of the world are eager for conflict; but they are held in check by the angels. When this restraining power is removed, there will come a time of trouble and anguish. Deadly instruments of warfare will be invented. Vessels, with their living cargo, will be entombed in the great deep. All who have not the spirit of truth will unite under the leadership of satanic agencies. But they are to be kept under control till the time shall come for the great battle of Armageddon.

“Every form of evil is to spring into intense activity.” —Maranatha, p. 257.
2. Facing these final storms, how is the sealing work relevant to them? Zephaniah 2:3

“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.”

“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.

3. Does God send out a call for believers to respond and be protected? Isaiah 26:20, 21; Revelation 18:4

“In the day of fierce trial He [Christ] will say, "Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast." What are the chambers in which they are to hide? They are the protection of Christ and holy angels. The people of God are not at this time all in one place. They are in different companies, and in all parts of the earth.” —Maranatha, p. 270.

A HIDING PLACE

4. Can we find scriptures that speak of where we are to hide from all the storms that threaten us in their growing intensity? Psalms 31:20; 32:7; 27:5
“Thus God will destroy the wicked from off the earth. But the righteous will be preserved in the midst of these commotions, as Noah was preserved in the ark. God will be their refuge, and under His wings shall they trust. Says the psalmist: "Because thou hast made the Lord, which is my refuge, even the Most High, thy habitation; there shall no evil befall thee."” —Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 110.

5. **Is heeding the sure word of God’s prophecies a place of hiding for us? Psalm 119:114**

“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.

**CONCLUDING SUMMARY**

6. **By reflecting upon the description of the storms given in the first section of these lessons, are the following summary actions a protection from those storms?**

1. Heeding the fifty years of truths by end-time heralds.
2. Preparing for approaching storms.
3. Entering into Sabbath rest.
4. Enduring by love to the end.
5. Sowing better seeds for the harvest.
7. Keeping above Satan’s subtleties.
9. Avoiding confederacies and pressing together in truth.
10. Meeting Jacob’s trouble intelligently.

7. How does Scripture verify the summary of question six?
   Isaiah 33:14-17

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

“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, pp. 215, 216.
Perfect Trust

Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name. Psalm 91:14

OBJECTIVES

• To know what it means to know and love God.
• To realise the experience of trust.
• To embrace the love and trust that removes all fear in the storms of the end.

TRUE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD

1. What admonition is given in reference to the very best attribute to glory in? Jeremiah 9:23, 24

“The value of man is estimated in heaven according to the capacity of the heart to know God. This knowledge is the spring from which flows all power. God created man that every faculty might be the faculty of the divine mind; and He is ever seeking to bring the human mind into association with the divine. He offers us the privilege of co-operation with Christ in revealing His grace to the world, that we may receive increased knowledge of heavenly things.” —Christ’s Object Lessons, p. 354.

“To know God is, in the scriptural sense of the term, to be one with Him in heart and mind, having an experimental knowledge of Him, holding reverential communion with Him as the Redeemer. Only through sincere obedience can this communion be obtained.” —In Heavenly Places, p. 72.
2. To know God means to know what regarding Him? 1 John 4:16
   i.e. verse 8

   “God is love. Like rays of light from the sun, love and light and joy flow out from Him to all His creatures. It is His nature to give. His very life is the outflow of unselfish love.” —Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, p. 77.

3. In the knowledge of this love, how will I relate to God in times of trouble? Psalm 9:9, 10; Nahum 1:7

   “To know God is to trust Him fully.” —This Day With God, p. 316.

   “Trust yourself in the hands of God. Do cease complaining, even though you suppose that there is something to complain of. Satan says, "I will harass him until he shall make shipwreck of faith"; but you need not be overcome by his devices. God will uphold you if you will only let Him. At times you are inclined to make a complete surrender of yourself to God, and then you feel at rest; but you take yourself back again, you do not let Jesus carry your burdens.” —The Upward Look, p. 314.

   **THE REAL TRUST**

4. Does Inspiration define to us the true meaning of trust?
   Proverbs 3:5, 6; 1 Peter 5:6, 7

   “As a little child, trust to the guidance of Him who will "keep the feet of his saints."” —The Faith I Live By, p. 64.
“The sinner must be led to look to Calvary; with the simple faith of a little child he must trust in the merits of the Saviour, accepting His righteousness, believing in His mercy.” —*Gospel Workers*, p. 156.

5. **Will there be internal peace and tranquility when we know God and trust Him implicitly during the last storms of life?**  
   Philippians 14:4-7; Isaiah 32:17-19

“When we can, notwithstanding disagreeable circumstances, rest confidingly in His love and shut ourselves in with Him, resting peacefully in His love, the sense of His presence will inspire a deep, tranquil joy. This experience gains for us a faith that enables us not to fret, not to worry, but to depend upon a power that is infinite.

“We shall have the power of the Highest with us. . . . Jesus stands by our side. . . . As the trials come, the power of God will come with them.”  
—*My Life Today*, p. 184.

“Two wrongs will not make one right. You have victories to gain in order to overcome as Christ overcame.”

“He [Jesus] moved amid the world of excitement, of violence and crime, as the sun moves above the clouds. Human passions and commotions and trials were beneath Him. He sailed like the sun above them all. Yet He was not indifferent to the woes of men. His heart was ever touched with the sufferings and necessities of His brethren, as though He Himself was the one afflicted. He had a calm inward joy, a peace which was serene. His will was ever swallowed up in the will of His Father. Not My will but Thine be done, was heard from His pale and quivering lips.” —*This Day With God*, p. 263.
PERFECT LOVE AND TRUST

6. As we embrace God’s love demonstrated in Jesus, what will this love do in the midst of the fearful storms of the end? 1 John 4:17, 18; Psalm 56:3

“His word is pledged. The mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed, but His kindness shall not depart from His people, neither shall the covenant of His peace be removed. His voice is heard, "I have loved thee with an everlasting love" (Jeremiah 31:3). "With everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee" (Isaiah 54:8). How amazing is this love, that God condescends to remove all cause for doubt and questioning from human fears and weakness and takes hold of the trembling hand reached up to Him in faith; and He helps us to trust Him by multiplied assurances

“This is an important statement; for there are many who desire to love and serve God, and yet when affliction comes upon them, they do not discern the love of God in it, but the hand of the enemy. They mourn and murmur and complain; but this is not the fruit of love to God in the soul. If we have perfect love, we shall know that God is not seeking to injure us, but that in the midst of trials, and griefs, and pain, He is seeking to make us perfect, and to test the quality of our faith. When we cease to worry about the future, and begin to believe that God loves us, and means to do us good, we shall trust Him as a child trusts a loving parent. Then our troubles and torments will disappear, and our will will be swallowed up in the will of God.” —Sons and Daughters of God, p. 193.

7. Are there assurances that Scripture gives us by which we can intelligently cast off all fear? Luke 1:37; Psalms 46:1-3; 91:14
and securities. He has made us a binding agreement upon condition of our obedience, and He comes to meet us in our own understanding of things. We think that a pledge or promise from our fellow men, if recorded, still needs a guarantee. Jesus has met all these peculiar fears, and He has confirmed His promise with an oath: "Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath: . . ." What more could our Lord do to strengthen our faith in His promises?" —That I May Know Him, p. 262.

8. Due to all we have studied in these six months, are the words of Psalm 91 a reality to us? Psalm 91:1-6, 9, 10, 14, 15

“The eye of God, looking down the ages, was fixed upon the crisis which His people are to meet, when earthly powers shall be arrayed against them. Like the captive exile, they will be in fear of death by starvation or by violence. But the Holy One who divided the Red Sea before Israel, will manifest His mighty power and turn their captivity. "They shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him." (Malachi 3:17).

“If the blood of Christ's faithful witnesses were shed at this time, it would not, like the blood of the martyrs, be as seed sown to yield a harvest for God. Their fidelity would not be a testimony to convince others of the truth; for the obdurate heart has beaten back the waves of mercy until they return no more. If the righteous were now left to fall a prey to their enemies, it would be a triumph for the prince of darkness. Says the psalmist: "In the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me."” —Reflecting Christ, p. 375.
Theme song:

'Til the Storm Passes by

Mogie Lister, 1958

LISTER 7.6.7.6.7.6.9.Ref.
Mogie Lister, 1958 (1921- )

1. In the dark of the mid-night Have I oft hid my face,
2. Many times Satan whis-pered, "There is no need to try,
3. When the long night has end-ed, And the storms come no more,

While the storm howls a-bove me, And there's no hid-ing place.
For there's no end of sor-row; There's no hope by and by.
Let me stand in Thy pres-ence On that bright, peace-ful shore.

'Mid the crash of the thun-der, Precious Lord, hear my cry,
But I know Thou art with me, And to-mor-row I'll rise
In that land where the tem-pest Nev-er comes, Lord, may I

"Keep me safe 'til the storm pass-es by."
Where the storm nev-er dark-en-s the skies. 'Til the storm pass-es
Dwell with Thee when the storm pass-es by.

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Ever from the sky,
Hold me fast, let me stand
In the hollow of Thy hand;
Keep me safe 'til the storm passes by.