

SABBATH SCHOOL LESSONS

for the
Second Half Year 2001

THE TWO GREAT
DECEPTIONS

GOD'S AUTHORITY
IN THE UNIVERSE



SABBATH SCHOOL LESSONS

for the Second Half Year 2001

Third Quarter
The Two Great Deceptions

Fourth Quarter
God's Authority in the Universe

Issued by the
General Conference
International Missionary Society
of the Seventh-day Adventist Reform Movement

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Recipients of the
SPECIAL SABBATH SCHOOL OFFERINGS

January 6, 2001

Rwanda

April 7, 2001

Bolivia

July 7, 2001

Moldova

October 6, 2001

Korea

January 5, 2002

General Conference Book Evangelism Department

April 6, 2002

Brazil

come to the church through canvassing, we would see that they are many, including myself and my wife. "By the canvassing work the truth is presented to thousands who otherwise would never hear it."—*Colporteur Ministry*, p. 8.

Our publications have carried precious rays of light to thousands and thousands of homes in this world. They have provided education in the area of physical health, carrying healing and relief to families. There are countless testimonies of persons who, after putting into practice the principles of health reform and experiencing physical healing, have accepted the message of salvation contained in our publications and saved their souls.

We have no time to lose. There is an enormous amount of work to be done, many streets to cover. The people urgently need the message of salvation contained in our publications. We need to introduce the canvassing work into areas where the believers do not have this tool. To do this, we need to create literature appropriate for those countries. We also need to place in the hands of the canvassers who are already in the field of labor educational materials that are appropriate for their training and improvement. We need to conduct training seminars in various fields and unions and arouse the churches to intensify their missionary work through the printed page.

Up until now, the General Conference Book Evangelism Department has made efforts to meet these needs; but there is much more to be done, and few resources are available. Therefore, we ask you for your generous assistance through contributions to advance this area of the work. The canvassing work should not die.

Under the latter rain, "More than one thousand will soon be converted in one day, most of whom will trace their first convictions to the reading of our publications."—*Colporteur Ministry*, p. 151.

For this reason, the "The church must give her attention to the canvassing work. This is one way in which she is to shine in the world. Then will she go forth 'fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners.'"—*Colporteur Ministry*, p. 7.

May the Lord grant you His abundant blessings and reward your effort to help the canvassing work. Many thanks in advance for your gifts. May the Lord bless you all.

—José Vicente Giner, General Conference
Book Evangelism Department Leader

Missionary Report from the
General Conference
Book Evangelism Department

To be read Sabbath, December 29, 2001

**The Special Sabbath School Offering
will be gathered on Sabbath, January 5, 2002**

Dear brothers and sisters of the body of Christ, scattered around the world, greetings to you and particularly to the book evangelists who have worked so faithfully until today. Your work will not be without reward. "Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." Revelation 22:14.

The rapid changes and catastrophes occurring around us should not discourage or defeat us; rather they should motivate us to action, for they are unmistakable signs announcing Christ's second return to this earth.

But at the same time the world needs to be prepared and helped. We cannot abandon the people who are plummeting into the deep abyss of depression. We need to do everything we can to relieve human pain and carry hope and Christ's love to homes affected by hunger, war, enmity, sickness, pain, or materialism.

The Lord Jesus sent His disciples to preach the good news of salvation, declaring that when the gospel has reached the far corners of the earth, sin will be brought to an end. Matthew 24:14. Many systems have been established to sow the seed, but there is one that is stressed by the Spirit of Prophecy as the most important: Book evangelism. "There is no higher work than evangelistic canvassing." *—Colporteur Ministry*, p. 12.

Since the beginning of the Reform Movement, this work has been developing and expanding in a special way, thanks to the work of brave canvassers who go out into the streets of this world without being afraid of the difficulties. It is in this manner that the message has found entrance into the various continents and churches, groups, houses of prayer, and health centers have been raised up. The dissemination of the printed page has converted more people than the preaching from the pulpit. If we would count the souls who have

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Introduction

The enemy of all righteousness, the usurper of authority, has had nearly six millennia to wage his war against the Creator of the universe and all that is good. In this quarter, we will examine the foundation of God's government and authority and at the same time unmask the deceiver's two primary counterfeits.

We believe that every person who claims Jesus Christ as his Saviour should understand clearly the deceptions that have fastened practically the whole world in their grip; and more, should keep the cross and the mediation of our High Priest in the heavenly sanctuary constantly in view. In conjunction with the work of the Holy Spirit and the constant protection of the heavenly angels, these are the powerful, God-given means for releasing one from the stranglehold of Satan. God's word should be highly prized for its truth in these matters.

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." Philippians 2:5. That mind will preserve the weakest saint in the heat of the coming battle. If we have accepted the robe of Christ's righteousness, we will be completely hidden in Him. Then when the wicked one comes to us in any form, we can know that he cannot accuse us of anything. He was unsuccessful in pulling God from His throne, and he will be unsuccessful in taking God's children out of His hand. John 14:30. We do not need to defend or justify self, for Jesus takes care of it all. May His power sustain every humble Christian.

—THE BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF THE
GENERAL CONFERENCE

by the blood of Christ; and the excellence and brightness of His glory, far exceeding the brightness of the sun in its meridian splendor, is imparted to them. And the moral beauty, the perfection of His character, shines through them, in worth far exceeding this outward splendor. They are without fault around the great white throne, sharing the dignity and privileges of the angels."—*Signs of the Times*, April 3, 1884.

7. **Where does heaven begin? What does our willingly and fully yielding to God's authority in this world have to do with establishing His eternal kingdom? Psalm 22:3.**

"Thou art holy, Thou who art enthroned upon the praises of Israel." Psalm 22:3, *New American Standard Version*.

"Those who take Christ at His word, and surrender their souls to His keeping, their lives to His ordering, will find peace and quietude. Nothing of the world can make them sad when Jesus makes them glad by His presence. In perfect acquiescence there is perfect rest. The Lord says, 'Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee: because he trusteth in Thee.' Isaiah 26:3. Our lives may seem a tangle; but as we commit ourselves to the wise Master Worker, He will bring out the pattern of life and character that will be to His own glory. And that character which expresses the glory—character—of Christ will be received into the Paradise of God. A renovated race shall walk with Him in white, for they are worthy.

"As through Jesus we enter into rest, heaven begins here. We respond to His invitation, Come, learn of Me, and in thus coming we begin the life eternal. Heaven is a ceaseless approaching to God through Christ."—*The Desire of Ages*, p 331.

CONCLUSION

"Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord." Psalm 150:6.

"We must now receive rich experiences in the service of God. Our faith is to be expressed in thanksgiving. 'Whoso offereth praise glorifieth God.' 'In everything give thanks.' 'Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His Holy Name.' Let expressions of praise flow forth from human lips. We are to rejoice in the Lord more than we have done.... Religion is to become a living, active principle. The one all-absorbing motive of the true Christian is to give an expression of the goodness and the love of Christ."—*Bible Training School*, January 1, 1908.

may, by proper discipline of the mind, learn to cherish faith. Those who truly love God will desire so to improve the talents that He has given them, that they may be a blessing to others.”—*Signs of the Times*, April 3, 1884.

KEEPING GOD AND HIS AUTHORITY IN FOCUS—HE IS IN CHARGE

5. **Often we think that accepting the gospel means giving our past to Jesus, but what about the future? What promises are given to us? Refer to Psalm 91; Zephaniah 2:3.**

Some speak of Jesus’ second coming as being the gospel, or the “Good News.” For the rejecters of His grace, however, the second coming will be the ultimate “bad news.”

“‘Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for them that love Him.’ In view of the glorious inheritance which may be his, ‘what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?’ He may be poor; yet he possesses in himself a wealth and dignity that the world could never bestow. The soul redeemed and cleansed from sin, with all its noble powers dedicated to the service of God, is of surpassing worth; and there is joy in Heaven, in the presence of God and holy angels, over one sinner that repents—a joy that is expressed in songs of holy triumph.”—*Signs of the Times*, April 3, 1884.

6. **What words will the faithful hear? Matthew 25:34-36.**

“And by and by the gates of Heaven will be thrown wide open to admit them [those who have improved their talents and used them to bless others], and from the lips of the King of glory the benediction will fall upon their ear like richest music, ‘Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.’ Thus the redeemed will be welcomed to the mansions that Jesus is preparing for them. There their companions will not be the vile of earth—liars, idolaters, the impure, or the unbelieving; but they will associate with those who have overcome Satan and his devices, and through divine aid have formed perfect characters. Every sinful tendency, every imperfection that afflicts them here, has been removed

Special Sabbath School Offering for KOREA

God bless your special gift!

1

Sabbath, July 7, 2001

God’s Authority As Creator

GOD’S RIGHT TO RULE

1. **What place does God occupy in the universe? Isaiah 44:6; Psalm 103:19, 20.**
2. **What entitles God to the worship of His created beings? Job 38:4-7; Nehemiah 9:6.**

“The duty to worship God is based upon the fact that He is the Creator and that to Him all other beings owe their existence. And wherever, in the Bible, His claim to reverence and worship, above the gods of the heathen, is presented, there is cited the evidence of His creative power.”—*The Great Controversy*, pp. 436, 437.

LESSONS FROM CREATION

3. **What does the creation teach us about its Author? Psalm 19:1-3.**

“If we will but listen, God’s created works will teach us precious lessons of obedience and trust. From the stars that in their trackless courses through space follow from age to age their appointed path, down to the minutest atom, the things of nature obey the Creator’s will.” –*Steps to Christ*, pp. 85, 86.

Even now all created things declare the glory of His excellence. There is nothing, save the selfish heart of man, that lives unto itself.” –*The Desire of the Ages*, p. 20.

“And God cares for everything and sustains everything that He has created. He who upholds the unnumbered worlds throughout immensity, at the same time cares for the wants of the little brown sparrow that sings its humble song without fear. When men go forth to their daily toil, as when they engage in prayer; when they lie down at night, and when they rise in the morning; when the rich man feasts in his palace, or when the poor man gathers his children about the scanty board, each is tenderly watched by the heavenly Father. No tears are shed that God does not notice. There is no smile that He does not mark.” –*Steps to Christ*, p. 86.

GOD IS SEPARATE FROM HIS CREATION

4. What does the contemplation of God’s creative power evoke in man? Psalm 8:3, 4.

“All should meditate upon His majesty, His purity and holiness, that the heart may be impressed with a sense of His exalted character.” –*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 307.

“God cannot be compared with the things His hands have made. These are mere earthly things, suffering under the curse of God because of the sins of man. The Father cannot be described by the things of earth.” –*Evangelism*, p. 614.

GOD’S ASSOCIATE

5. With whom did God share His work of creation? John 1:1-3, 14.

“The Sovereign of the universe was not alone in His work of beneficence. He had an associate—a co-worker who could appreciate His

CHURCH TRIBULATIONS—PAST AND FUTURE

3. For the world to be guilty before God, what must the church pass through? Revelation 18:24; Luke 11:49-51.

“Let it be remembered, it is the boast of Rome that she never changes. The principles of Gregory VII [who reigned 1073-1085 and proclaimed the perfection of the Romish Church; see *The Great Controversy*, p. 57] and Innocent III [who reigned 1198-1216 and claimed that it is lawful for the Roman pontiff to depose emperors and absolve subjects of their allegiance to unrighteous rulers; see *The Great Controversy*, p. 581] are still the principles of the Roman Catholic Church. And had she but the power, she would put them in practice with as much vigor now as in past centuries. Protestants little know what they are doing when they propose to accept the aid of Rome in the work of Sunday exaltation. While they are bent upon the accomplishment of their purpose, Rome is aiming to reestablish her power, to recover her lost supremacy. Let the principle once be established in the United States that the church may employ or control the power of the state; that religious observances may be enforced by secular laws; in short, that the authority of church and state is to dominate the conscience, and the triumph of Rome in this country is assured.

“God’s word has given warning of the impending danger; let this be unheeded, and the Protestant world will learn what the purposes of Rome really are, only when it is too late to escape the snare. She is silently growing into power.” –*The Great Controversy*, p. 581.

The above prediction is being fulfilled before our eyes.

TRUSTING GOD’S WISDOM—THAT ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD

4. What do we need to do to be able to stand in the future? Why is there still a lingering period of grace? Ephesians 6:10-18; Revelation 7:1-3.

“The short space of time allotted to men here is exceedingly valuable. Now, while probation lingers, God proposes to unite His strength with the weakness of finite man. We should so educate ourselves that we can serve Him intelligently. Those who have cherished skepticism

*Please read the Missionary Report from the
General Conference Book Evangelism Department
on page 102*

13

Sabbath, December 29, 2001

The Church's Place in the Final Crisis

"The church is in need, not of burdens, but of earnest workers; not of faultfinders, but of builders in Zion.... There are many who have taken hold of the truth, but the truth has not taken hold of them, to transform their hearts and cleanse them from all selfishness....

"Religion has no saving virtue if the characters of those professing it do not correspond with their profession." —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 194.

HOW THE CHURCH WILL SHINE IN THE DARKNESS

1. **In comparison with the early rain (Acts 2:1-4), what will the outpouring of the latter rain be like? Habakkuk 2:14; Revelation 18:1-3.**

"The prophecies in the eighteenth of Revelation will soon be fulfilled. During the proclamation of the third angel's message, 'another angel' is to 'come down from heaven, having great power,' and the earth is to be 'lightened with his glory.' The Spirit of the Lord will so graciously bless consecrated human instrumentalities that men, women, and children will open their lips in praise and thanksgiving, filling the earth with the knowledge of God, and with His unsurpassed glory, as the waters cover the sea." —(*Review and Herald*, Oct. 13, 1904) *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 7, p. 984.

2. **What privilege are we called to share with Christ? Luke 4:18; Isaiah 52:7; 60:1; 61:1.**

purposes, and could share His joy in giving happiness to created beings." —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 34.

6. **What wonderful metaphor did the apostle Paul present? To what is all creation immediately linked? 2 Corinthians 4:6; John 1:9.**

"Christ alone is the true Light, and He is the only source of light and life to sinful men. By creation and by redemption we belong to Him. He came to His own, and they received Him not. The nation that He had chosen to be His peculiar people did not believe in Him. They rejected and crucified Him." —*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 20, p. 89.

2

Sabbath, July 14, 2001

God's Authority Challenged; Satan Cast Out of Heaven

LUCIFER—ONCE THE GREATEST OF ANGELS

1. **What characterized Lucifer before his fall? Ezekiel 28:12-14.**

"Before his fall he was a covering cherub, distinguished by his excellence. God made him good and beautiful, as near as possible like Himself....

"Lucifer..., before his rebellion, was a high and exalted angel, next in honor to God's dear Son. His countenance, like those of the other angels, was mild and expressive of happiness. His forehead was high and broad, showing a powerful intellect. His form was perfect; his bearing noble and majestic. A special light beamed in his countenance

and shone around him brighter and more beautiful than around the other angels; yet Christ, God's dear Son, had the preeminence over all the angelic host. He was one with the Father before the angels were created...." —*The Faith I Live by*, pp. 66, 67.

2. To whom does even Lucifer owe his existence? Colossians 1:16.

"The Father wrought by His Son in the creation of all heavenly beings.... Angels are God's ministers, radiant with the light ever flowing from His presence and speeding on rapid wing to execute His will. But the Son, the Anointed of God, the 'express image of His person,' 'the brightness of His glory,' 'upholding all things by the word of His power,' holds supremacy over them all." —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 34.

DRIFTING AWAY FROM GOD'S PURPOSES

3. What event triggered a negative attitude in Lucifer? What did he do with his strange new feelings? Genesis 1:26-28.

"Before the fall of Satan, the Father consulted His Son in regard to the formation of man. They purposed to make this world, and create beasts and living things upon it, and to make man in the image of God, to reign as a ruling monarch over every living thing which God should create. When Satan learned the purpose of God, he was envious at Christ, and jealous because the Father had not consulted him in regard to the creation of man. Satan was of the highest order of angels; but Christ was above all. He was the commander of all Heaven." —*Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 3, p. 35.

"Lucifer himself had not at first been acquainted with the real nature of his feelings; for a time he had feared to express the workings and imaginings of his mind; yet he did not dismiss them. He did not see whither he was drifting. But such efforts as infinite love and wisdom only could devise, were made to convince him of his error. His disaffection was proved to be without cause, and he was made to see what would be the result of persisting in revolt.... He nearly reached the decision to return; but pride forbade him.... He persistently de-

"Studied and obeyed, the word of God would give to the world men of stronger and more active intellect than will the closest application to all the subjects that human philosophy embraces. It would give men of strength and solidity of character, of keen perception and sound judgment—men who would be an honor to God and a blessing to the world." —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 599.

"Those who are loyal to the truth will, through the merits of Christ, overcome all weakness of character that has led them to be molded by every varying circumstance of life." —*Faith and Works*, p. 85.

FAITHFUL PERFORMANCE OF TODAY'S DUTIES

6. How important are the little things in our spiritual life? Luke 19:17.

"Let a living faith run like threads of gold through the performance of even the smallest duties. Then all the daily work will promote Christian growth. There will be a continual looking unto Jesus. Love for Him will give vital force to everything that is undertaken. Thus through the right use of our talents, we may link ourselves by a golden chain to the higher world. This is true sanctification; for sanctification consists in the cheerful performance of daily duties in perfect obedience to the will of God." —*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 360.

7. In today's world, it is easy to lose our bearings—to lose sight of the real purpose of our existence. Answer the following basic questions for yourself:

- Where have I come from?
- Where am I going?
- Who am I?
- Why am I here?

"Individually and as a people we have a most solemn work before us. There is a daily preparation of heart and mind to be gained in order that we may be fitted to work out the purposes of God for us. The perils of the last days are upon us, and at this time we are each determining what our destiny for eternity shall be. Individually we are to form characters that will stand the test of the judgment. Individually we are to give, in the church where we are, an example of faithfulness and consecration." —*The Upward Look*, p. 274.

their counselor. Those who will humbly seek Him will find His grace sufficient. But when one man allows another to step in between him and the duty that God has pointed out to him, giving to man his confidence and accepting him as guide, then he steps from the true platform to a false and dangerous one. Such a man, instead of growing and developing, will lose his spirituality.

“There is no power in any man to remedy the defective character. Individually our hope and trust must be in One who is more than human. We need ever to remember that help has been laid on One who is mighty. The Lord has provided the needed help for every soul who will accept it.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 9, p. 280.

4. **What are we counseled to bear? Galatians 6:2, 5. Should we wait for others to show us our duty? Should we expect others to carry the responsibility for our actions? Isaiah 2:22; Jeremiah 17:5.**

“No human being is to seek to bind other human beings to himself, as if he were to control them, telling them to do this, and forbidding them to do that, commanding, dictating, acting like an officer over a company of soldiers. This is the way the priests and rulers did in Christ’s day, but it is not the right way. After the truth has made the impression upon hearts, and men and women have accepted its teachings, they are to be treated as the property of Christ, not as the property of man. In fastening minds to yourself, you lead them to disconnect from the Source of their wisdom and sufficiency. Their dependence must be wholly in God; only thus can they grow in grace.” —*Gospel Workers*, p. 484.

“It is because men have been encouraged to look to one man to think for them, to be conscience for them, that they are now so inefficient, and unable to stand at their post of duty as faithful sentinels for God, allowing no one to interfere in matters pertaining to their relation to God. Let men seek not to men, but to God for wisdom. As a people we are not what we should be because we have depended upon the wisdom of mortals, and have not made God our dependence and trust.” —*The Ellen G. White 1888 Materials*, pp. 975, 976.

FOUNDED ON THE WORD ALONE

5. **If we are diligent to know the will of God by studying His word, of what may we be assured? Psalm 23:1; John 10:27; 17:17.**

fended his own course, and fully committed himself to the great controversy against his Maker...” —*The Faith I Live by*, p. 70.

4. **What made Lucifer aspire to prerogatives belonging to Christ? Hebrews 1:5; Ezekiel 28:15, 17, first part.**

“And coveting the honor which the infinite Father had bestowed upon His Son, this prince of angels aspired to power which it was the prerogative of Christ alone to wield.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 494.

FROM BITTERNESS TO WAR

5. **How perverse did Lucifer’s original feelings of jealousy become? Isaiah 14:13, 14.**

“Lucifer in heaven desired to be first in power and authority; he wanted to be God, to have the rulership of heaven; and to this end he won many of the angels to his side.” —*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 32.

6. **How did Lucifer act out his refusal to submit to the authority of God? Who joined him in his rebellion? Revelation 12:7, 8.**

“It was the highest crime to rebel against the government of God. All heaven seemed in commotion. The angels were marshaled in companies, each division with a higher commanding angel at their head. Satan was warring against the law of God, because ambitious to exalt himself, and unwilling to submit to the authority of God’s Son, heaven’s great Commander.” —*Signs of the Times*, January 9, 1879.

OPEN REBELLION AGAINST GOD’S AUTHORITY

7. **What was the result of the rebellion of Lucifer and his angels? 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6.**

8. Where did Satan continue his rebellion? Revelation 12:9, 12.

“When with his rebel host he [Satan] was cast out from the courts of God, the work of rebellion and self-seeking was continued on earth.”
—*The Faith I Live by*, p. 67.

9. What did Jesus prophesy? Luke 10:18.

“When Christ cried, ‘It is finished,’ God’s unseen hand rent the strong fabric composing the veil of the temple from top to bottom. The way into the holiest of all was made manifest. God bowed His head satisfied. Now His justice and mercy could blend. He could be just, and yet the justifier of all who should believe on Christ. He looked upon the victim expiring on the cross, and said, ‘It is finished. The human race shall have another trial.’ The redemption price was paid, and Satan fell like lightning from heaven.” —*Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 5, p. 1150.

3

Sabbath, July 21, 2001

Earth’s First King— God Gave Adam Dominion

MAN’S INTENDED DESTINY

1. Who were created as the crowning work of God’s creation? What special office were they to hold? Genesis 1:26-28.

“The ministry of the Word is designed to prepare a people to stand in the times of temptation in which we live; and church members are to cooperate with the work of ministry by revealing in the life the principles of the truth, that no word shall be spoken or act performed that will lead into false paths or create a condition of things that God cannot approve.” —(*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 10, p. 214) *The Upward Look*, p. 274.

“We have few home missionaries, because there are so few church members who are connected with Christ. There ought to be far more personal labor than there now is. This work will accomplish much more than pulpit labor. Satan knows this, and he tries to keep the mind employed with unnecessary things.” —*Signs of the Times*, May 19, 1887.

2. Comparing ourselves with the Jews of Christ’s day, who has the greater light? Who has the greater responsibility? And who is in the greater danger? Isaiah 10:3; Matthew 23:37, 38.

“Jesus looked down through the centuries even to the close of time, and, taking in the cases of all who had repaid His love and admonitions with selfishness and neglect, and all who would thus repay Him, He addressed to them those solemn words, declaring that they knew not the time of their visitation. The Jews were gathering about themselves the dark clouds of retribution, and many today, in like manner, are drawing upon themselves the wrath of God, because of opportunities unimproved, the counsels and love of Jesus scorned, and His servants despised and hated for speaking the truth.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 192.

TAKING TIME TO BUILD TRUSTING RELATIONSHIPS WITHIN THE CHURCH

3. What is it our privilege to say? Psalm 22:22-26.

“Every church member should understand that God is the one to whom to look for an understanding of individual duty. It is right that brethren counsel together; but when men arrange just what their brethren shall do, let them answer that they have chosen the Lord as

worketh, than the amount he doeth. Love is of God. The unconverted heart cannot originate nor produce this plant of heavenly origin, which lives and flourishes only where Christ reigns.

“Love cannot live without action, and every act increases, strengthens, and extends it. Love will gain the victory when argument and authority are powerless.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2, p. 135.

12

Sabbath, December 22, 2001

The Church's Preparation for the Final Crisis

“Christ and His apostles ... declared that the wheat and the tares are to grow together until the harvest, the end of the world [Matthew 13:30, 38-41]; that ‘evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse;’ that ‘in the last days perilous times shall come’ [2 Timothy 3:13, 1]; and that the kingdom of darkness shall continue until the advent of the Lord, and shall be consumed with the spirit of His mouth, and be destroyed with the brightness of His coming [2 Thessalonians 2:8]. The doctrine of the world’s conversion and the spiritual reign of Christ was not held by the apostolic church. It was not generally accepted by Christians until about the beginning of the eighteenth century. Like every other error, its results were evil. It taught men to look far in the future for the coming of the Lord, and prevented them from giving heed to the signs heralding His approach. It induced a feeling of confidence and security that was not well founded, and led many to neglect the preparation necessary in order to meet their Lord.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 321.

A SACRED MISSION

1. What is God using today to prepare the church for the final crisis? 2 Timothy 4:1, 2; Ephesians 4:21-27.

2. How does the Bible describe man’s original nature? Hebrews 2:7; Ecclesiastes 7:29.

“Man was to bear God’s image, both in outward resemblance and in character. Christ alone is ‘the express image’ (Hebrews 1:3) of the Father; but man was formed in the likeness of God. His nature was in harmony with the will of God. His mind was capable of comprehending divine things. His affections were pure; his appetites and passions were under the control of reason. He was holy and happy in bearing the image of God and in perfect obedience to His will.” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 45.

3. What were Adam and his posterity destined to become? Exodus 19:6.

“If the holy pair should be obedient, the race would, after a time, be made equal to the angels.” —*Confrontation*, p. 18.

ADAM’S HIGH, HOLY POSITION

4. As ruler over the earth, what was Adam’s relationship to the Creator?

“...Adam was the vicegerent of the Creator. His was not an independent rule. The earth is God’s, and He has committed all things to His Son. Adam was to reign subject to Christ.” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 129.

5. What was Adam’s first task as earth’s ruler? What was God’s role in this activity? How did this illustrate God’s pronouncement that Adam should have “dominion”? (See question 1.) Genesis 2:19.

6. **What other employment did Adam and Eve have? How did this contribute to the happiness of our first parents? Genesis 2:15.**

“To Adam was given the work of caring for the garden. The Creator knew that Adam could not be happy without employment. The beauty of the garden delighted him, but this was not enough. He must have labor to call into exercise the wonderful organs of the body. Had happiness consisted in doing nothing, man, in his state of holy innocence, would have been left unemployed. But He who created man knew what would be for his happiness; and no sooner had He created him than He gave him his appointed work. The promise of future glory, and the decree that man must toil for his daily bread, came from the same throne.” —*The Adventist Home*, p. 27.

7. **What did Satan determine to do when he saw the happy pair in the Garden of Eden? How did Peter describe his terrible aims? 1 Peter 5:8.**

“When Adam and Eve were placed in the beautiful garden, Satan was laying plans to destroy them. In no way could this happy couple be deprived of their happiness if they obeyed God. Satan could not exercise his power upon them unless they should first disobey God and forfeit His favor. Some plan must therefore be devised to lead them to disobedience that they might incur God’s frown and be brought under the more direct influence of Satan and his angels.” —*Early Writings*, pp. 146, 147.

“He [Satan] determined to cause their [Adam and Eve’s] fall, that, having separated them from God and brought them under his own power, he might gain possession of the earth and here establish his kingdom in opposition to the Most High.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 531.

UPHOLDING THE DIVINE WORD

7. **As with the individual, what is the most important reason why God’s people as a whole must pass through the trial of their faith? 1 Peter 1:7. How does that relate to the preaching of the gospel at the end of time? Revelation 11:3; 1 Peter 4:12-14; Daniel 11:33-35.**

“The purpose which God seeks to accomplish through His people today is the same that He desired to accomplish through Israel when He brought them forth out of Egypt. By beholding the goodness, the mercy, the justice, and the love of God revealed in the church, the world is to have a representation of His character. And when the law of God is thus exemplified in the life, even the world will recognize the superiority of those who love and fear and serve God above every other people on the earth.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 12.

“Will not the members of our churches remember that those who have had labor bestowed on them should have a knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ whom He has sent? If Christ is formed within, the hope of glory, they will seek to save those that are lost. A living church will not be a gossiping church, planting doubt, questioning, evil surmising, and jealousy in the hearts and minds of others. It will be an earnest, working church. The members will be the Lord’s chosen vessels to carry the message of salvation to others. They will be His light bearers.” —*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 21, p. 33.

FAITH THAT WORKS BY LOVE

8. **Therefore, what should we be doing? Galatians 5:6, last part. Where does this high, heavenly motivation come from?**

“Love is power. Intellectual and moral strength are involved in this principle, and cannot be separated from it. The power of wealth has a tendency to corrupt and destroy; the power of force is strong to do hurt; but the excellence and value of pure love consist in its efficiency to do good, and to do nothing else than good. Whatsoever is done out of pure love, be it ever so little or contemptible in the sight of men, is wholly fruitful; for God regards more with how much love one

nize churches, being invested with full ecclesiastical authority....
 “Both Paul and Barnabas had already received their commission from God Himself, and the ceremony of the laying on of hands added no new grace or virtual qualification. It was an acknowledged form of designation to an appointed office and a recognition of one’s authority in that office. By it the seal of the church was set upon the work of God.” –*The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 161, 162.

***HOW THE CHURCH REVEALS GOD’S WILL
 AND AUTHORITY IN SOCIETY***

5. **How did Paul and Peter view church leadership? 1 Corinthians 14:32, 33; 1 Peter 5:5.**

“Notwithstanding the fact that Paul was personally taught by God, he had no strained ideas of individual responsibility. While looking to God for direct guidance, he was ever ready to recognize the authority vested in the body of believers united in church fellowship. He felt the need of counsel, and when matters of importance arose, he was glad to lay these before the church and to unite with his brethren in seeking God for wisdom to make right decisions. Even ‘the spirits of the prophets,’ he declared, ‘are subject to the prophets. For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.’ 1 Corinthians 14:32, 33. With Peter, he taught that all united in church capacity should be ‘subject one to another.’ 1 Peter 5:5....

“There have ever been in the church those who are constantly inclined toward individual independence. They seem unable to realize that independence of spirit is liable to lead the human agent to have too much confidence in himself and to trust in his own judgment rather than to respect the counsel and highly esteem the judgment of his brethren, especially of those in the offices that God has appointed for the leadership of His people. God has invested His church with special authority and power which no one can be justified in disregarding and despising, for he who does this despises the voice of God.” –*The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 200, 163, 164.

6. **What will be the result when each member comes closer to Jesus and lovingly, respectfully cooperates with his fellow members? John 13:34, 35.**

4

Sabbath, July 28, 2001

The Sabbath and God’s Authority

THE LORD’S DAY

1. **Does the Lord regard one specific day of the week as different from the others? Exodus 20:8-11; Revelation 1:10.**
2. **As Creator, which day does Jesus claim as “the Lord’s day”? John 1:1-3, 14; Colossians 1:16; Mark 2:28.**

THE SABBATH WAS MADE FOR MAN

3. **Adam and Eve having been created on the sixth day, what began as they observed their first sunset? Genesis 2:1-3.**
4. **What does the sequence of the creation of the first human pair followed by the Sabbath indicate? Mark 2:27.**

THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GOD’S AUTHORITY

5. **What was the weekly observance of the Sabbath day intended to teach Adam and, hence, all mankind? How does the Sabbath relate to God’s authority? Exodus 20:11.**

“In Eden, God set up the memorial of His work of creation, in placing His blessing upon the seventh day. The Sabbath was committed to Adam, the father and representative of the whole human family. Its observance was to be an act of grateful acknowledgment, on the part of all who should dwell upon the earth, that God was their Creator and their rightful Sovereign; that they were the work of His hands and the subjects of His authority. Thus the institution was wholly commemorative, and given to all mankind.” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 48.

“The Sabbath of the fourth commandment is the seal of the living God. It points to God as the Creator, and is the sign of His rightful authority over the beings He has made.” —*Signs of the Times*, November 1, 1899.

THE PERPETUITY OF THE SABBATH

6. **What event recorded in the New Testament showed the Lord’s blessings upon the Gentiles who worshiped with Paul on the Sabbath day? Acts 16:13, 14.**

7. **What indication do we have that Jesus anticipated that the Sabbath would be kept in the New Testament era? Matthew 24:20.**

8. **For how long was the Sabbath intended to be kept? For what purpose? Isaiah 66:23; Psalm 111:4, 7-9.**

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

“We are authorized to hold in the same estimation as did the beloved disciple those who claim to abide in Christ while living in transgression of God’s law. There exist in these last days evils similar to those that threatened the prosperity of the early church; and the teachings of the apostle John on these points should be carefully heeded. ‘You must have charity,’ is the cry heard everywhere, especially from those who profess sanctification. But true charity is too pure to cover an unconfessed sin. While we are to love the souls for whom Christ died, we are to make no compromise with evil. We are not to unite with the rebellious and call this charity. God requires His people in this age of the world to stand for the right as unflinchingly as did John in opposition to soul-destroying errors.” —*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 554.

THE CHURCH’S AUTHORITY AS GIVEN BY GOD

3. **What mission does God carry out through His obedient, sanctified people? Therefore, what authority does His church have? Acts 9:6, 10-12, 17, 18.**

“Thus Jesus gave sanction to the authority of His organized church and placed Saul in connection with His appointed agencies on earth. Christ had now a church as His representative on earth, and to it belonged the work of directing the repentant sinner in the way of life.

“Many have an idea that they are responsible to Christ alone for their light and experience, independent of His recognized followers on earth. Jesus is the friend of sinners, and His heart is touched with their woe. He has all power, both in heaven and on earth; but He respects the means that He has ordained for the enlightenment and salvation of men; He directs sinners to the church, which He has made a channel of light to the world.” —*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 122.

4. **Through what means and process does God select His ministers? Acts 13:1-3.**

“Before being sent forth as missionaries to the heathen world, these apostles were solemnly dedicated to God by fasting and prayer and the laying on of hands. Thus they were authorized by the church, not only to teach the truth, but to perform the rite of baptism and to orga

The Church— God's Revelation to the World

“Those who faithfully carry forward the work of Christ in our world, representing in word and works the character of God, fulfilling the Lord's purpose for them, are in His sight very precious. Christ takes pleasure in them as a man takes pleasure in a well-kept garden and the fragrance of the flowers he has planted.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 418.

THE INDIVIDUAL'S PRIVILEGES AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE CHURCH

1. **To what great privilege are we called? Examine the different callings mentioned in 2 Peter 1:1, 3, 4.**

“Through trials and persecution, the glory—character—of God is revealed in His chosen ones. The church of God, hated and persecuted by the world, are educated and disciplined in the school of Christ. They walk in narrow paths on earth; they are purified in the furnace of affliction. They follow Christ through sore conflicts; they endure self-denial and experience bitter disappointments; but their painful experience teaches them the guilt and woe of sin, and they look upon it with abhorrence. Being partakers of Christ's sufferings, they are destined to be partakers of His glory.” —*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 31.

2. **Beyond what limit does no individual or organization have the authority to go? Can a person or organization that oversteps this limit rightly claim to represent God? Matthew 5:18, 19; Revelation 12:17; 22:18, 19.**

‘From one Sabbath to another’ the inhabitants of the glorified new earth shall go up ‘to worship before Me, saith the Lord.’ Matthew 5:18; Isaiah 66:23.” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 283.

Satan's Disguise: Spiritism and the First Lie

A TEST OF OBEDIENCE

1. **What specific command and warning had God given to Adam and Eve? Why did He place this restriction on them? Genesis 2:16, 17.**

“God placed man under law, as an indispensable condition of his very existence. He was a subject of the divine government, and there can be no government without law. God might have created man without the power to transgress His law; He might have withheld the hand of Adam from touching the forbidden fruit; but in that case man would have been, not a free moral agent, but a mere automaton. Without freedom of choice, his obedience would not have been voluntary, but forced. There could have been no development of character. Such a course would have been contrary to God's plan in dealing with the inhabitants of other worlds. It would have been unworthy of man as an intelligent being, and would have sustained Satan's charge of God's arbitrary rule.” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 49.

2. **What opportunity did Satan seize? Genesis 3:1-3.**

“In order to accomplish his work unperceived, Satan chose to employ as his medium the serpent—a disguise well adapted for his purpose of deception.” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 53.

THE DECEPTIVE PROMISE: IMMORTALITY WITHOUT OBEDIENCE

3. **What fatal error was expressed in Satan’s lie to Eve? Discuss how this lie and Satan’s use of a serpent as a medium marked the beginning of spiritism. Genesis 3:4.**

“The only one who promised Adam life in disobedience was the great deceiver. And the declaration of the serpent to Eve in Eden—‘Ye shall not surely die’—was the first sermon ever preached upon the immortality of the soul. Yet this declaration, resting solely upon the authority of Satan, is echoed from the pulpits of Christendom, and is received by the majority of mankind as readily as it was received by our first parents.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 534.

4. **What other argument did Satan use to entice Eve? What subtle connection did there appear to be between the serpent’s new ability to speak and its eating the forbidden fruit? Genesis 3:5.**

“She was startled to hear a serpent speak. He extolled her beauty and exceeding loveliness, which was not displeasing to Eve. But she was amazed, for she knew that to the serpent God had not given the power of speech.

“Eve’s curiosity was aroused. Instead of fleeing from the spot, she listened to hear a serpent talk. It did not occur to her mind that it might be that fallen foe, using the serpent as a medium. It was Satan that spoke, not the serpent. Eve was beguiled, flattered, infatuated.” —*The Story of Redemption*, p. 33.

“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.” —*Evangelism*, p. 589.

RESULTS OF THE CHURCH’S FAITHFULNESS

7. **How does God portray the results and experience of His faithful witnesses? Daniel 12:3; Mark 10:30.**

“The humblest and poorest of the disciples of Jesus can be a blessing to others. They may not realize that they are doing any special good, but, by their unconscious influence, they may start waves of blessing which will widen and deepen, and the happy result of their words and consistent deportment they may never know until the final distribution of rewards. They do not feel or know that they are doing anything great. They are not required to weary themselves with anxieties about success. They have only to go forward, not with many words and vainglorying and boasting, but quietly, faithfully doing the work which God’s providence has assigned them, and they will not lose their reward.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 3, p. 246.

8. **What experience of Jesus will His people share? What did He promise to do? Hebrews 12:2, 3; John 15:26, 27.**

“For your sake I came into the world; for you I have been working. When I go away I shall still work earnestly for you. I came to the world to reveal Myself to you, that you might believe. I go to My Father and yours to cooperate with Him in your behalf.” —*The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 21, 22.

THE CHURCH'S MISSION IN THE FACE OF OPPOSITION

4. To whom alone and for what is the church responsible? John 20:21.

“At this time the church is to put on her beautiful garments—‘Christ our righteousness.’ There are clear, decided distinctions to be restored and exemplified to the world in holding aloft the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. The beauty of holiness is to appear in its native luster in contrast with the deformity and darkness of the disloyal, those who have revolted from the law of God. Thus we acknowledge God and recognize His law, the foundation of His government in heaven and throughout His earthly dominions. His authority should be kept distinct and plain before the world, and no laws are to be acknowledged that come in collision with the laws of Jehovah.” —*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 16.

5. What has God given His church authority to do? To what is it limited? Matthew 10:7, 8; Jeremiah 1:7; Acts 5:20.

“Christ seldom attempted to prove that truth is truth. He illustrated truth in all its bearings, and then left His hearers free to accept or reject it, as they might choose. He did not force anyone to believe. In the sermon on the mount He instructed the people in practical godliness, distinctly outlining their duty. He spoke in such a manner as to commend truth to the conscience. The power manifested by the disciples was revealed in the clearness and earnestness with which they expressed the truth.” —*Evangelism*, p. 171.

6. What are our responsibilities to civil authorities, to our neighbors, toward the needs of society, and to individuals? 1 Timothy 2:1, 2; James 2:15, 16; Luke 6:38.

THE CHOICE OF WHOM TO OBEY IS THE CHOICE OF AN AUTHORITY

5. What did Eve believe—the truth or a lie? Whom did Adam choose—God or Eve? Genesis 3:6.

Adam reasoned that Eve “was a part of himself, and he could not endure the thought of separation. He did not realize that the same Infinite Power who had from the dust of the earth created him, a living, beautiful form, and had in love given him a companion, could supply her place. He resolved to share her fate; if she must die, he would die with her.” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 56.

6. What is the natural consequence of our choice of whom to obey? Romans 6:16.

7. What would have happened if Adam and Eve had remained faithful to God?

“After God had made every provision for the happiness of man, and had supplied his every want, He tested his loyalty. If the holy pair should be obedient, the race would, after a time, be made equal to the angels.” —*Review and Herald*, February 24, 1874.

8. How does the following description of spiritualism coincide with Satan's use of the serpent?

“The law of God is set aside, the Spirit of grace despised, the blood of the covenant counted an unholy thing. The spirits deny the divinity of Christ and place even the Creator on a level with themselves. Thus under a new disguise the great rebel still carries forward his warfare against God, begun in heaven and for nearly six thousand years continued upon the earth.” —*The Story of Redemption*, p. 394.

Man Is Mortal

IN ADAM ALL DIE

1. **When Adam sinned at the suggestion of his wife, what was lost for all mankind? Romans 5:12.**

“In the midst of Eden grew the tree of life, whose fruit had the power of perpetuating life. Had Adam remained obedient to God, he would have continued to enjoy free access to this tree and would have lived forever. But when he sinned he was cut off from partaking of the tree of life, and he became subject to death. The divine sentence, ‘Dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return,’ points to the utter extinction of life.

“Immortality, promised to man on condition of obedience, had been forfeited by transgression. Adam could not transmit to his posterity that which he did not possess; and there could have been no hope for the fallen race had not God, by the sacrifice of His Son, brought immortality within their reach.” —*The Great Controversy*, pp. 532, 533.

2. **What two evils can never be separated? Romans 6:23; Ezekiel 18:4, last part.**

IN CHRIST IS LIFE

3. **In like manner, what two virtues can never be separated? John 1:4; 11:25.**

wisdom in seeking to save those who are lost.... It is the union of the Holy Spirit and the testimony of the living witness that is to warn the world. The worker for God is the agent through which the heavenly communication is given, and the Holy Spirit gives divine authority to the word of truth.” —*Review and Herald*, April 4, 1893.

THE CHURCH’S ROLE IN THE WORLD

1. **What deep meanings are contained in some of the scriptural figures applied to God’s church?**

- Witnesses (Matthew 24:14; Acts 1:8; Isaiah 43:10, etc.)
- Ambassadors (2 Corinthians 5:20; 3:6)
- Pure woman (Revelation 12:1)
- Mention others.

2. **How does His church view the sinful world and relate to the people? 1 John 2:15-17; 4:11; Matthew 5:44; 2 Corinthians 5:20.**

3. **How does the world see and relate to the church? Acts 7:57, 58; Revelation 18:24; Daniel 7:21.**

“It is in the converted soul that the world sees a living testimony. Then shall the Lord of heaven have room to work? Shall He find a place in the hearts of those who claim to believe the truth? Shall His pure, disinterested benevolence meet with a response from the human agent? Shall the world see a display of the glory of Christ in the characters of those who profess to be His disciples? Shall Christ be favored and glorified in seeing His own sympathy and love pouring forth in streams of goodness and truth from His human agents? In implanting His gospel in the heart, He is pouring out the resources of heaven for the blessing of the world.” —*Selected Messages*, vol. 1, p. 141.

“Human feelings will lead men to take the work into their own hands, and the building thus becomes disproportionate. The Lord therefore employs a variety of gifts to make the building symmetrical. Not one feature of the truth is to be hidden or made of little account. God cannot be glorified unless the building, ‘fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord.’ A great subject is here comprehended, and those who understand the truth for this time must take heed how they hear and how they build and educate others to practice....

“When every specification which Christ has given has been carried out in the true, Christian spirit, then, and then only, Heaven ratifies the decision of the church, because its members have the mind of Christ, and do as He would do were He upon the earth.” —*Selected Messages*, vol. 3, pp. 21, 22.

7. How will we act at all times and in all matters if we have truly received the gift of God’s grace? Colossians 3:14.

“Our relations with one another should be pleasant. When we do right, the testimony of our own spirit and the testimony of the Spirit of God bear witness that the human mind is under the control of the divine mind.... His Word furnishes evidence from which we may draw the conclusion that we are indeed His sons and daughters.... True love for God carries with it true, reverential trust. And he who loves God will love his brother also.” —(*Pacific Union Recorder*, July 26, 1906) *Sons and Daughters of God*, p. 193.

10

Sabbath, December 8, 2001

The Church in the World

“We can impart only that which we first receive. Those who are united to the church should be living, working agents to impart light to those who are in darkness. They should declare the truth of God, revealing his love and faithfulness. When men use their powers as God directs them to, their talents will increase, their ability will enlarge, and they will have heavenly

“In Christ is life, original, unborrowed, underived. ‘He that hath the Son hath life.’ 1 John 5:12. The divinity of Christ is the believer’s assurance of eternal life.” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 530.

THE DECEPTION OF NATURAL IMMORTALITY

4. Nevertheless, what would Satan have people believe? Genesis 3:4.

“It was a marvel to me that Satan could succeed so well in making men believe that the words of God, ‘The soul that sinneth, it shall die,’ mean that the soul that sinneth it shall not die, but live eternally in misery. Said the angel, ‘Life is life, whether it is in pain or happiness. Death is without pain, without joy, without hatred.’ ” —*Early Writings*, p. 218.

“By representing the basest of men as in Heaven, and highly exalted there, Satan says to the world: ‘No matter how wicked you are; no matter whether you believe or disbelieve God and the Bible. Live as you please; heaven is your home.’ The Spiritualist teachers virtually declare, ‘Every one that doeth evil is good in the sight of the Lord, and He delighteth in them; or, Where is the God of judgment?’ [Malachi 2:17.] Saith the Word of God, ‘Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness.’ [Isaiah 5:20.]” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 557.

5. Believing this deception, whom have people turned to for counsel? From whom does this counsel actually come? Isaiah 8:19.

“Spiritualists claim superior light and power. They have opened the door and invited the prince of darkness in, and have made him their honored guest. They have allied themselves to the powers of darkness which are developing in these last days in signs and wonders, that if it were possible they would deceive the very elect.” —*Review and Herald*, April 1, 1875.

6. What clear warning did God give to Israel before the conquest of Canaan? Deuteronomy 18:9-12.

THE TRUTH ABOUT DEATH

7. **What is the actual state of the dead? Mark 5:39; John 11:11-13; Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6.**

8. **When the concerned Christians of Thessalonica asked Paul whether the dead had the same hope as do the living for eternal life, what did he answer? Did he mention anything about the dead being in heaven prior to Christ's second coming? 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18.**

7

Sabbath, August 18, 2001

Man's Accuser Versus Man's Redeemer

1. **What did Adam and Eve give up when they believed Satan's lie rather than the words of truth declared by the God of love for their good? What titles did Satan usurp? John 14:30; 2 Corinthians 4:4.**

"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

Christ. They believe the word of God, and obey its plain injunctions. They do not consult their feelings, neither do they extol their own opinions above those of others. They esteem others better than themselves. They do not stubbornly strive to carry out their own purposes, irrespective of the influence their plans will have on other souls that are precious in the sight of God. In order to have peace and unity in our institutions and in the church, our selfish ideas and preferences must be sacrificed. No principle of divine truth is to be sacrificed by any means, but our own hereditary and cultivated tendencies must often yield. No man is perfect, no one without defects." —*Review and Herald*, March 12, 1895.

ALL YE ARE BRETHREN

5. **What specific responsibilities and authority has God given His church? Matthew 16:19; 18:18, 19.**

"God has a special work for the men of experience to do. They are to guard the cause of God. They are to see that the work of God is not committed to men who feel it their privilege to move out on their own independent judgment, to preach whatever they please, and to be responsible to no one for their instructions or work. Let this spirit of self-sufficiency once rule in our midst, and there will be no harmony of action, no unity of spirit, no safety for the work, and no healthful growth in the cause. There will be false teachers, evil workers who will, by insinuating error, draw away souls from the truth. Christ prayed that His followers might be one as He and the Father were one. Those who desire to see this prayer answered, should seek to discourage the slightest tendency to division, and try to keep the spirit of unity and love among brethren." —*Evangelism*, pp. 212, 213.

DIVINE LEADERSHIP

6. **Considering the church as a spiritual building, who is the architect, who is the contractor, who are the workmen, who are the materials, and who is to be the occupant (who is it being built for, and when will He move in)? Ephesians 2:21, 22.**

short all things, work together for our good.... All experiences and circumstances are God's workmen whereby good is brought to us." – *Review and Herald*, February 27, 1894.

INDIVIDUAL FREE WILL AND ACCOUNTABILITY

2. **For what purpose did Christ give spiritual gifts to the church? How did He give them? 1 Corinthians 12:8-12; Ephesians 4:12, 16.**

3. **How does our being part of a whole body relate to individual authority and church authority as well as to our motives? Ephesians 4:2, 3; Philippians 2:2-5, etc.**

"That which ruled him [Judas] was the hope of selfish benefit in the worldly kingdom which he expected Christ to establish. Though recognizing the divine power of the love of Christ, Judas did not yield to its supremacy. He continued to cherish his own judgment and opinions, his disposition to criticize and condemn. Christ's motives and movements, often so far above his comprehension, excited doubt and disapproval, and his own questionings and ambitions were insinuated to the disciples. Many of their contentions for supremacy, much of their dissatisfaction with Christ's methods, originated with Judas." – *Education*, pp. 91, 92.

MUTUAL RESPONSIBILITY AND A SPIRIT OF HELPFULNESS

4. **How did Jesus present to Peter the importance of edifying the church? Luke 22:32.**

"The wisdom which is from above ... is the wisdom of Christ. 'But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.' James 3:17. Those who manifest these fruits have placed themselves on God's side; their will is the will of

'the god of this world' (2 Corinthians 4:4). He had usurped that dominion over the earth which had been originally given to Adam." – *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 67.

2. **When representatives from the unfallen worlds presented themselves to God, as described in the book of Job, who appeared as this world's representative? Job 1:6, 7.**

3. **When in God's presence, what is Satan's attitude toward the saints of God? Job 1:8-11.**

"Satan is their great adversary. He is the 'accuser of our brethren,' who accuses them before God day and night. (Revelation 12:10.) He is continually working to misrepresent and accuse, to deceive and destroy the people of God." – *Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 166.

4. **What did Satan emphasize concerning Joshua the high priest and, hence, all the people after the Babylonian captivity? Zechariah 3:1-3.**

"Thus sinners appear before the enemy who by his masterly, deceptive power has led them away from allegiance to God. With garments of sin and shame the enemy clothes those who have been overpowered by his temptations, and then he declares that it is unfair for Christ to be their Light, their Defender." – (Manuscript 125, 1901) *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 4, p. 1178.

5. **Yet, what does the Lord have the authority to do? Zechariah 3:4.**

6. **What event did Joshua's change of raiment anticipate? Revelation 12:10.**

“The casting down of Satan as an accuser of the brethren in heaven was accomplished by the great work of Christ in giving up His life.” – *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 7, p. 973.

7. **When did God, in His great mercy, first announce that He would rescue mankind from this wily accuser? What did this plan involve? Genesis 3:14-19.**

“But man was not abandoned to the results of the evil he had chosen. In the sentence pronounced upon Satan was given an intimation of redemption. ‘I will put enmity between thee and the woman,’ God said, ‘and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise His heel.’ Genesis 3:15. This sentence, spoken in the hearing of our first parents, was to them a promise. Before they heard of the thorn and the thistle, of the toil and sorrow that must be their portion, or of the dust to which they must return, they listened to words that could not fail of giving them hope. All that had been lost by yielding to Satan could be regained through Christ.” – *Education*, p. 27.

8

Sabbath, August 25, 2001

Jesus’ Battle to Keep the Edenic Promise

SATAN IS INFORMED ABOUT THE PLAN OF SALVATION

1. **How did Satan consider the announcement of the plan of salvation?**

9

Sabbath, December 1, 2001

Unity with God and Unity in the Church

(Based on Ephesians 4)

“In the fourth chapter of Ephesians the plan of God is so plainly and simply revealed that all His children may lay hold upon the truth. Here the means which He has appointed to keep unity in His church, that its members may reveal to the world a healthy religious experience, is plainly declared....

“This whole chapter is a lesson that God desires us to learn and practice.” – *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 6, p. 1117.

BASIS OF TRUE UNITY

If all the believers submit to God, they will all automatically submit to one another. If we are not sure God is leading us, we will be unable to believe that He is leading others.

1. **What is the basis of Christian unity? Colossians 2:2. By contrast, what do newspapers and broadcasts reveal about the way the world seeks for unity?**

“If we will love one another as Christ has loved us, the barriers that separate us from God and from one another will be broken down, and many obstacles that hinder the Holy Spirit’s flowing from heart to heart will be removed.... Trust Him with all your heart. He will carry you and your burdens.” – *My Life Today*, p. 185.

“The Lord designs that His people shall be happy, and He opens before us one source of consolation after another, that we may be filled with joy and peace in the midst of our present experience. We are not to wait until we shall get into heaven for brightness and comfort and joy. We are to have them right here in this life.... We miss very much because we do not grasp the blessings that may be ours in our afflictions. All our sufferings and sorrows, all our temptations and trials, all our sadness and griefs, all our persecutions and privations, and in

“Picture a large circle, from the edge of which are many lines all running to the center. The nearer these lines approach the center, the nearer they are to one another.

“Thus it is in the Christian life. The closer we come to Christ, the nearer we shall be to one another. God is glorified as His people unite in harmonious action.” –*The Adventist Home*, p. 179.

“Christ came to this world to reveal the love of God. His followers are to continue the work which He began. Let us strive to help and strengthen one another. Seeking the good of others is the way in which true happiness can be found. Man does not work against his own interest by loving God and his fellow men. The more unselfish his spirit, the happier he is, because he is fulfilling God’s purpose for him.” – (*Review and Herald*, June 25, 1908) *Counsels on Stewardship*, p. 24.

AUTHORITY IN THE FAMILY AND IN THE CHURCH

6. From what source does proper authority come? Psalm 89:14; Proverbs 14:34; Isaiah 32:17; Matthew 7:29.

“The teaching of the Bible has a vital bearing upon man’s prosperity in all the relations of this life. It unfolds the principles that are the cornerstone of a nation’s prosperity—principles with which is bound up the well-being of society, and which are the safeguard of the family—principles without which no man can attain usefulness, happiness, and honor in this life, or can hope to secure the future, immortal life. There is no position in life, no phase of human experience, for which the teaching of the Bible is not an essential preparation.” – *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 599.

7. What do trials reveal, and why should we rejoice even about that? Why should we be glad when we are able to recognize our defects? Malachi 3:3; 1 Peter 1:7; Proverbs 28:13.

“It is in a crisis that character is revealed.” –*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 412.

“When the plan of salvation was revealed, Satan rejoiced with his angels that he could, by causing man’s fall, pull down the Son of God from his exalted position. He told his angels that when Jesus should take fallen man’s nature, he could overpower him, and hinder the accomplishment of the plan.” –*Signs of the Times*, January 30, 1879.

SATAN DEPLOYS HIS ARSENALS AGAINST CHRIST

2. Thus, what did Satan understand was happening when Jesus was born? Hebrews 2:14.

“At the birth of Jesus, Satan knew that One had come with a divine commission to dispute his dominion. He trembled at the angel’s message attesting the authority of the newborn King....

“Satan saw that he must either conquer or be conquered. The issues of the conflict involved too much to be entrusted to his confederate angels. He must personally conduct the warfare. All the energies of apostasy were rallied against the Son of God. Christ was made the mark of every weapon of hell.” –*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 115, 116.

3. What was Satan’s first attempt to destroy the Saviour? Matthew 2:16-18.

“Satan was bent on shutting out the divine light from the world, and he used his utmost cunning to destroy the Saviour.” –*The Desire of Ages*, p. 65.

A DECISIVE BATTLE

4. What new opportunity presented itself to Satan in order to launch his fierce attack against Christ? Matthew 4:1, 2.

“When Jesus was led into the wilderness to be tempted, He was led by the Spirit of God. He did not invite temptation. He went to the wilderness to be alone, to contemplate His mission and work. By fast-

ing and prayer He was to brace Himself for the bloodstained path He must travel. But Satan knew that the Saviour had gone into the wilderness, and he thought this the best time to approach Him....

“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. Christ had come to disprove Satan’s claim. As the Son of man, Christ would stand loyal to God. Thus it would be shown that Satan had not gained complete control of the human race, and that his claim to the world was false. All who desired deliverance from his power would be set free. The dominion that Adam had lost through sin would be recovered.” –*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 114, 115.

5. **Considering Christ’s temptations, of what should we be mindful? Hebrews 4:15.**

“Jesus Christ is our example in all things. He began life, passed through its experiences, and ended its record, with a sanctified human will. He was tempted in all points like as we are, and yet because He kept His will surrendered and sanctified, He never bent in the slightest degree toward the doing of evil, or toward manifesting rebellion against God.” –*Signs of the Times*, October 29, 1894.

6. **What was the first of Christ’s three temptations? How did He respond to it? Matthew 4:3, 4.**

“With Christ, as with the holy pair in Eden, appetite was the ground of the first great temptation. Just where the ruin began, the work of our redemption must begin. As by the indulgence of appetite Adam fell, so by the denial of appetite Christ must overcome.” –*The Desire of Ages*, p. 117.

7. **What was the second temptation? How did Jesus answer it? Matthew 4:5-7.**

grieved feelings, and Satan uses us as his agents to wound and distress those who did not intend to injure us. The requirements of the husband may sometimes seem unreasonable to the wife, when if she should calmly, candidly take the second view of the matter, in as favorable a light for him as possible, she would see that to yield her own way and submit to his judgment, even if it conflicted with her feelings, would save them both from unhappiness and would give them great victory over the temptations of Satan.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, pp. 308, 309.

PURPOSE OF CHURCH RELATIONSHIP

4. **At baptism, we take on the name “Christian”–follower of Christ. Describe some of His character traits, which we will automatically acquire by being connected with Him. Hebrews 12:1-3; Philippians 2:4-8; etc.**

“To be a Christian means a great deal more than is supposed. A Christian is Christlike. Membership in the church does not make us Christians. Has the light from Christ penetrated the heart? Are justice and purity and truth abiding in the soul temple? We may know; for the fruits will appear. [Galatians 5:22-26; 6:1-3, quoted.] This is not a time for brother to cherish prejudice against brother. Put not into our enemies’ hands anything that bears the least suggestion of differences among us, even in opinion.” –*Manuscript Release*, vol. 15, p. 301.

5. **By studying and looking for the revelation of His character in nature, in the Bible, and in all of life’s circumstances, what will happen to us? Hebrews 13:20, 21; Matthew 4:19, 22; John 15:5, 8; 2 Corinthians 5:17.**

“The cause of division and discord in families and in the church is separation from Christ. To come near to Christ is to come near to one another. The secret of true unity in the church and in the family is not diplomacy, not management, not a superhuman effort to overcome difficulties—though there will be much of this to do—but union with Christ.

leaving its saving influence upon human minds, revealing that we are branches of the true Vine because we bear rich clusters of fruit?" – (Letter 6b, 1890) *Evangelism*, pp. 342, 343.

2. What should we cultivate in the home? Compare the home and the church in this area. 1 Peter 4:7-10.

"There is a sacred circle around every family which should be preserved. No other one has any right in that sacred circle. The husband and wife should be all to each other. The wife should have no secrets to keep from her husband and let others know, and the husband should have no secrets to keep from his wife to relate to others. The heart of his wife should be the grave for the faults of the husband, and the heart of the husband the grave for his wife's faults. Never should either party indulge in a joke at the expense of the other's feelings. Never should either the husband or wife in sport or in any other manner complain of each other to others, for frequently indulging in this foolish and what may seem perfectly harmless joking will end in trial with each other and perhaps estrangement. I have been shown that there should be a sacred shield around every family." – *The Adventist Home*, p. 177.

3. Sadly, our sinful human nature is inclined to use unchristian methods in dealing with others (such as divide and conquer, rule or ruin, and manipulation). What does the Bible counsel concerning such things? 2 Corinthians 6:16-18; 13:4-7.

"If you do manifest unkindness at your home, no matter how high may be your profession, you are breaking God's commandments." – *Review and Herald*, March 29, 1892.

"Those we love may speak or act unguardedly, which may wound us deeply. It was not their intention to do this; but Satan magnifies their words and acts before the mind, and thus hurls a dart from his quiver to pierce us. We brace ourselves to resist the one whom we think has injured us, and by so doing we encourage Satan's temptations. Instead of praying to God for strength to resist Satan, we suffer our happiness to be marred by trying to stand for what we term 'our rights.' Thus we allow Satan a double advantage. We act out our ag-

"While manifesting perfect trust in His Father, He would not place Himself, unbidden, in a position that would necessitate the interposition of His Father to save Him from death. He would not force Providence to come to His rescue, and thus fail of giving man an example of trust and submission." – *The Desire of Ages*, p. 125.

8. What did Satan offer Christ in the third temptation? How did He reply, and with what result? Matthew 4:8-11.

"Now the tempter offered to yield up the power he had usurped. Christ might deliver Himself from the dreadful future by acknowledging the supremacy of Satan. But to do this was to yield the victory in the great controversy. It was in seeking to exalt himself above the Son of God that Satan had sinned in heaven. Should he prevail now, it would be the triumph of rebellion." – *The Desire of Ages*, p. 129.

A DECISIVE VICTORY

9. What did Jesus' victory prove? 1 Peter 2:21; 1 John 5:4.

"Satan had pointed to Adam's sin as proof that God's law was unjust, and could not be obeyed. In our humanity, Christ was to redeem Adam's failure. But when Adam was assailed by the tempter, none of the effects of sin were upon him. He stood in the strength of perfect manhood, possessing the full vigor of mind and body. He was surrounded with the glories of Eden, and was in daily communion with heavenly beings. It was not thus with Jesus when He entered the wilderness to cope with Satan. For four thousand years the race had been decreasing in physical strength, in mental power, and in moral worth; and Christ took upon Him the infirmities of degenerate humanity. Only thus could He rescue man from the lowest depths of his degradation.

"Many claim that it was impossible for Christ to be overcome by temptation. Then He could not have been placed in Adam's position; He could not have gained the victory that Adam failed to gain. If we have in any sense a more trying conflict than had Christ, then He would not be able to succor us. But our Saviour took humanity, with all its liabilities. He took the nature of man, with the possibility of yielding to temptation. We have nothing to bear which He has not endured." – *The Desire of Ages*, p. 117.

Christ Honors God's Authority

JESUS DELIGHTS TO DO HIS FATHER'S WILL

1. What did Christ declare about Himself through the psalmist? Psalm 40:8.

"The yoke of service Christ Himself has borne in humanity. He said, 'I delight to do Thy will, O My God: yea, Thy law is within My heart.' Psalm 40:8. 'I came down from heaven, not to do Mine own will, but the will of Him that sent Me.' John 6:38. Love for God, zeal for His glory, and love for fallen humanity, brought Jesus to earth to suffer and to die. This was the controlling power of His life. This principle He bids us adopt." —*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 329, 330.

2. Even at the age of twelve, what did Jesus say to Mary and Joseph, showing that He understood the significance of His life and His mission? Luke 2:46-49.

"And as they seemed not to understand His words, He pointed upward. On His face was a light at which they wondered. Divinity was flashing through humanity." —*The Desire of the Ages*, p. 81.

3. How was Jesus' delight in doing His Father's will manifested? John 15:10.
4. What sign of the Father's approbation did He receive on at least three occasions? Matthew 3:17; 17:5; John 12:28.

soul is the holy, uplifting, sanctifying agency which is to soften and subdue jarring human nature. The love of Christ is to constrain the believers, causing them to blend in harmonious action at the cross of Calvary. As they live the principles which separated them from the world, they will be bound to one another by the sacred cords of Christian love." —*Medical Ministry*, p. 316.

Personal Rights and God's Authority in the Sacred Circle

"Around every family there is a sacred circle that should be kept unbroken. Within this circle no other person has a right to come. Let not the husband or the wife permit another to share the confidences that belong solely to themselves." —*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 361.

AS WE ARE IN THE FAMILY, SO WE WILL BE IN THE CHURCH

1. What safeguards has God placed in the family and in the church? Exodus 34:12; Deuteronomy 7:3, 4.

"The very same spirit that you exercise at home will be manifested more or less in your church relationship." —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 130.

"That family, properly conducted, is a favorable argument to the truth, and the head of such a family will carry out the very same kind of work in the church as is revealed in the family. Wherever severity, harshness, and want of affection and love are exhibited in the sacred circle of the home, there will most assuredly be a failure in the plans and management in the church. Unity in the home, unity in the church, reveals Christ's manner and grace more than sermons and arguments.... Is the truth, the advanced truth we have received, producing in our own hearts the fruits of patience, faith, hope, charity, and thus

UNITY OF THE BELIEVERS

7. **For the church to receive the latter rain, what must the individual members be ready to do? Hebrews 13:17; 1 Thessalonians 5:12, 13; Matthew 18:15-18; Acts 1:14.**

“Organization is to bring into agreement and union individuals who will pledge themselves to have a care for each other, to advise with and counsel each other. Elders, local and traveling, are appointed by the church and by the Lord to oversee the church, to reprove, exhort, and rebuke the unruly and to comfort the feebleminded. There is no higher tribunal upon earth than the church of God. And if the members of the church will not submit to the decision of the church, and will not be counseled and advised by it, they cannot be helped. If one and then another think they know best and choose their own judgment instead of the judgment of the church, what kind of a church would we have? What would be the use of a church if each one is permitted to choose his own course of action? Everything would be in the greatest confusion; there would be no harmony, no union.”—*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 5, p. 296.

8. **What principles govern the individual’s relationship with his fellow Christians? What high goal is he seeking? Romans 15:14; Ephesians 4:1-3, 32; 1 Corinthians 14:12.**

“The rubbish of human opinion must be swept aside, that the clear jewels of truth may be brought to light; for we want the truth on every point, that we may be sanctified through the truth. The Bible is the garden of God, and here we must learn to gather the roses and the lilies and the pinks of God’s promises.”—*Review and Herald*, March 1, 1892.

“The Lord Jesus desires the members of His church to be an army of workers, laboring for Him according to their varied capabilities, and carrying out the principles of self-denial and self-sacrifice, preserving that love for God which drew them away from the world and which will draw them together, away from separate confederacies, from distant, detached parties. The work is to be one grand, harmonious whole in Christ Jesus. The faith that works by love and purifies the

A HUMAN WILL SURRENDERED TO THE DIVINE WILL

5. **What remained Jesus’ unswerving purpose during His entire ministry? John 6:38; 4:34.**

“Consider the life of Christ. Standing at the head of humanity, serving His Father, He is an example of what every son should and may be. The obedience that Christ rendered God requires from human beings today. He served His Father with love, in willingness and freedom.”—*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 282.

6. **What victory did Jesus have to gain to fulfill God’s will? Matthew 26:39.**

“Three times has He uttered that prayer. Three times has humanity shrunk from the last, crowning sacrifice.”—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 692.

7. **What immense possibilities did Christ’s steadfast obedience to the Father’s will open up for us? Romans 6:6, 7; Galatians 2:20.**

“He [Christ] subjected Himself to all the temptations that the enemy brings against men and women; and all the assaults of Satan could not make Him swerve from His loyalty to the Father. By living a sinless life He testified that every son and daughter of Adam can resist the temptations of the one who first brought sin into the world.”—*Selected Messages*, vol. 1, p. 226.

“It would have been an almost infinite humiliation for the Son of God to take man’s nature, even when Adam stood in his innocence in Eden. But Jesus accepted humanity when the race had been weakened by four thousand years of sin. Like every child of Adam He accepted the results of the working of the great law of heredity. What these results were is shown in the history of His earthly ancestors. He came with such a heredity to share our sorrows and temptations, and to give us the example of a sinless life.”—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 49.

8. After completing His mission on earth, what glorious return to heaven did Jesus experience?

“He approaches the Father, with whom there is joy over one sinner that repents; who rejoices over one with singing. Before the foundations of the earth were laid, the Father and the Son had united in a covenant to redeem man if he should be overcome by Satan. They had clasped Their hands in a solemn pledge that Christ should become the surety for the human race. This pledge Christ has fulfilled. When upon the cross He cried out, ‘It is finished,’ He addressed the Father. The compact had been fully carried out. Now He declares: Father, it is finished. I have done Thy will, O My God. I have completed the work of redemption. If Thy justice is satisfied, ‘I will that they also, whom Thou hast given Me, be with Me where I am.’ John 19:30; 17:24.” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 834.

10

Sabbath, September 8, 2001

The Prince of This World Cast out

THE INSTRUMENT OF VICTORY

- 1. What did Jesus say to His hearers only a few days before His crucifixion? What event would occur in connection with His victorious death? John 12:31-33.**
- 2. What song was heard in heaven when Jesus achieved this victory? What happened to Satan’s position as “accuser of the brethren”? Revelation 12:10.**

real need of order than ever before; for, as God unites His children, Satan and his evil angels are very busy to prevent this unity and to destroy it.” —*Early Writings*, p. 97.

5. What was a very important part of the power of the early Christian church? Acts 2:4, 46; 4:32, 13.

“Ministers should love order, and should discipline themselves, and then they can successfully discipline the church of God and teach them to work harmoniously, like a well-drilled company of soldiers. If discipline and order are necessary for successful action on the battlefield, the same are as much more needful in the warfare in which we are engaged as the object to be gained is of greater value and more elevated in character than those for which opposing forces contend on the field of battle. In the conflict in which we are engaged eternal interests are at stake.

“Angels work harmoniously. Perfect order characterizes all their movements. The more closely we imitate the harmony and order of the angelic host, the more successful will be the efforts of these heavenly agents in our behalf.” —*Evangelism*, p. 115.

INTERDEPENDENCE—DOING GOD’S WILL

6. The apostle Paul, in his burning zeal for the salvation of souls, willingly gave up many things. Describe his attitude. 2 Corinthians 12:10; 1 Corinthians 10:33; 9:19-22.

“Let those who are supposed to be yoked up with Christ deal with human minds according to His methods of government. Let them cultivate meekness and lowliness of heart. Mildness is not weakness. It is an evidence of power. To refuse to yield an opinion when it is best to yield is not an evidence of strength, but of selfishness and weakness.

“We are living in a most solemn period of this earth’s history, and God calls upon every human being to cooperate with Him. Every effort made for the conversion of souls must be made in the spirit of the great Teacher.

“Christ came to this earth to bring a new order of things.” —*General Conference Bulletin*, April 24, 1901.

it an abiding principle in his home, as he will assert his claims to authority?

“Let every husband and father study to understand the words of Christ, not in a one-sided manner, merely dwelling upon the subjection of the wife to her husband, but in the light of the cross of Calvary, study as to his own position in the family circle.”—*The Adventist Home*, p. 117.

HOW GOD EXERCISES AUTHORITY

3. How will those who are seeking heaven work—both in the home and in the church? Psalm 34:13, 14, 21, 22.

“If the elements existed in the church, which existed in the life of Christ, there would be a firm union among His professed followers. The world is working against the church, seeking to weaken and destroy it. Shall the church imitate the world in this matter? Shall we as church members destroy confidence in other church members because they do not meet a certain standard? The message of the angel to us is, ‘Press together, press together, press together.’ Let not Satan thrust himself between the members of the church. Do not give a stroke on the enemy’s side of the question to weaken the influence of any member of the church. There will always be agents of the great adversary of souls who are doing their master’s work of accusing those who profess to believe the truth. They will relate something that reflects upon the attitude and character of those who profess to be Christians.”—*1888 Materials*, p. 1090.

THE CHURCH AS AN ORGANIZED BODY

4. Just as the father and mother are responsible for the home government, who is responsible for the administration of the church? Hebrews 3:5; 1 Peter 5:1-4.

“Formality should be shunned; but, in so doing, order should not be neglected. There is order in heaven. There was order in the church when Christ was upon the earth, and after His departure order was strictly observed among His apostles. And now in these last days, while God is bringing His children into the unity of the faith, there is more

3. Nevertheless, what fearful struggle did Jesus have to endure before this victory song could be sung? What was at stake? What would be accomplished? Hebrews 5:7-10.

“As Christ felt His unity with the Father broken up, He feared that in His human nature He would be unable to endure the coming conflict with the powers of darkness. In the wilderness of temptation the destiny of the human race had been at stake. Christ was then conqueror. Now the tempter had come for the last fearful struggle. For this he had been preparing during the three years of Christ’s ministry. Everything was at stake with him. If he failed here, his hope of mastery was lost; the kingdoms of the world would finally become Christ’s; he himself would be overthrown and cast out. But if Christ could be overcome, the earth would become Satan’s kingdom, and the human race would be forever in his power.”—*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 686, 687.

4. What wonderful divine characteristics met at the cross? Psalm 85:10.

“Through Jesus, God’s mercy was manifested to men; but mercy does not set aside justice. The law reveals the attributes of God’s character, and not a jot or tittle of it could be changed to meet man in his fallen condition. God did not change His law, but He sacrificed Himself, in Christ, for man’s redemption. ‘God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself.’ 2 Corinthians 5:19.”—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 762.

5. What significance did Jesus’ glorious return to heaven have for mankind? John 14:2, 3.

“The voice of God is heard proclaiming that justice is satisfied. Satan is vanquished. Christ’s toiling, struggling ones on earth are ‘accepted in the Beloved.’ Ephesians 1:6. Before the heavenly angels and the representatives of unfallen worlds, they are declared justified. Where He is, there His church shall be....

“From that scene of heavenly joy, there comes back to us on earth the echo of Christ’s own wonderful words, ‘I ascend unto My Father, and your Father; and to My God, and your God.’ John 20:17. The family of heaven and the family of earth are one. For us our Lord ascended, and for us He lives. ‘Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them.’ Hebrews 7:25.” *—The Desire of Ages*, pp. 834, 835.

OUR HIGH PRIEST

6. **Having deposed the “prince of this world,” who could now act as earth’s Representative? 1 John 2:1; 1 Timothy 2:5.**

7. **In stark contrast to the accuser, in what capacity and how does our Representative serve? Hebrews 7:25; 8:1.**

“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! until the servants of God are sealed in their foreheads.’” *—Early Writings*, p. 38.

8. **Realizing that he is cast out of heaven and that his battle with Christ is lost, against whom has Satan’s wrath intensified? Revelation 12:13.**

7

Sabbath, November 17, 2001

Divinely Entrusted Authority

“A conscious authority pervades the true believer in Christ that makes its influence felt throughout the home. This is favorable for the perfection of the characters of all in the home.” *—The Adventist Home*, p. 36.

ROLE OF MARRIAGE AND THE FAMILY IN TEACHING ABOUT GOD’S SPECIAL AUTHORITY

1. **In the home, how will those who have received Christ show what grace has done for them? John 1:12; 2 Corinthians 9:10, 11.**

“A well-ordered Christian household is a powerful argument in favor of the reality of the Christian religion—an argument that the infidel cannot gainsay. All can see that there is an influence at work in the family that affects the children, and that the God of Abraham is with them. If the homes of professed Christians had a right religious mold, they would exert a mighty influence for good. They would indeed be the ‘light of the world.’” *—Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 144.

2. **The relationship between husband and wife is a symbol of the relationship between Christ and His church. How should husband and wife exercise their respective roles in the home? Ephesians 5:21-28.**

“Husbands should study the pattern and seek to know what is meant by the symbol presented in Ephesians, the relation Christ sustains to the church. The husband is to be as a Saviour in his family. Will he stand in his noble, God-given manhood, ever seeking to uplift his wife and children? Will he breathe about him a pure, sweet atmosphere? Will he not as assiduously cultivate the love of Jesus, making

This is also necessary, that they may have mental strength and clearness to discern the sacred chain of truth, and turn from the bewitching errors and pleasing fables that are flooding the world. Their work is to present before the people the pure doctrine of the Bible. Hence health reform finds its place in the preparatory work for the second appearing of Christ.”—*Review and Herald*, January 7, 1873.

FOR ADDITIONAL THOUGHT

“Beware how you sow the seeds of unbelief in human hearts and minds. Cleanse yourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit. The crowning glory of Christ’s attributes is His holiness.... By beholding Christ, by seeking Him in faith and prayer, you may become like Him.”—*Counsels to Parents Teachers and Students*, p. 402.

“Avoid reading and seeing things which will suggest to your imagination impure thoughts. Cultivate the moral and intellectual powers. Let not these noble powers become enfeebled and perverted by much reading of even storybooks.”—*Special Testimony for the Battle Creek Church*, p. 30.

“Our inclinations and desires must be under the control of the Spirit of God, and then we shall be strengthened to fight the good fight of faith. We should daily ask, What are the Captain’s orders?”—*Review and Herald*, May 5, 1891.

“It is a law of the mind that it will narrow or expand to the dimensions of the things with which it becomes familiar.”—(*Review and Herald*, July 17, 1888) *Messages to Young People*, p. 262.

- 9. Nevertheless, what promise do God’s persecuted children have to look forward to? 1 Corinthians 2:9.**

11

Sabbath, September 15, 2001

Christ Rules His Kingdom

CHRIST OBTAINS THE KINGDOM

- 1. What lay behind Satan’s offer to Jesus in the wilderness of temptation? Luke 4:5-7.**

“When Satan declared to Christ, The kingdom and glory of the world are delivered unto me, and to whomsoever I will I give it, he stated what was true only in part, and he declared it to serve his own purpose of deception. Satan’s dominion was that wrested from Adam, but Adam was the vicegerent of the Creator. His was not an independent rule....

“When the tempter offered to Christ the kingdom and glory of the world, he was proposing that Christ should yield up the real kingship of the world, and hold dominion subject to Satan....

“By the one who had revolted in heaven the kingdoms of this world were offered Christ, to buy His homage to the principles of evil; but He would not be bought; He had come to establish a kingdom of righteousness, and He would not abandon His purpose.”—*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 129, 130.

- 2. Therefore, what question did Christ settle once and for all when He refused to “yield up the real kingdom”? Revelation 12:10.**

“The scenes of the past and the future were presented to the mind of Jesus. He beheld Lucifer as he was first cast out from the heavenly places. He looked forward to the scenes of His own agony, when before all the worlds the character of the deceiver should be unveiled. He heard the cry, ‘It is finished’ (John 19:30), announcing that the redemption of the lost race was forever made certain, that heaven was made eternally secure against the accusations, the deceptions, the pretensions, that Satan would instigate.” *—The Desire of Ages*, p. 490.

THE KINGDOM—OF GRACE AND GLORY

3. Describe how God’s kingdom has been proclaimed on earth.

- The kingdom of grace: Mark 1:14, 15; Matthew 4:17.
- The kingdom of glory: Daniel 7:27; 2 Timothy 4:1.

“As the message of Christ’s first advent announced the kingdom of His grace, so the message of His second advent announces the kingdom of His glory. And the second message, like the first, is based on the prophecies.” *—The Desire of Ages*, p. 234.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS—FOUNDATION OF GOD’S THRONE

4. Where is the constitution and standard for the government of this kingdom located? Deuteronomy 10:5; Revelation 11:19.

“In the temple in heaven, the dwelling place of God, His throne is established in righteousness and judgment. In the most holy place is His law, the great rule of right by which all mankind are tested. The ark that enshrines the tables of the law is covered with the mercy seat, before which Christ pleads His blood in the sinner’s behalf. Thus is represented the union of justice and mercy in the plan of human redemption....” *—The Great Controversy*, p. 415.

“The cross of Calvary forever condemns the idea that Satan has placed before the Christian world, that the death of Christ abolished not only the typical system of sacrifices and ceremonies but the un-

GOD’S PARTNERSHIP WITH MAN (SANCTIFICATION)

5. When one follows God, what harmony exists between the higher powers of the mind and the lower passions? 1 Corinthians 9:25; Philippians 4:5; Romans 6:16.

“If permitted, the lower passions will obtain the mastery over the whole being. Christ would have these passions subject to the higher powers of the mind.” *—Signs of the Times*, March 1, 1899.

“All who would perfect holiness in the fear of God, must learn the lessons of temperance and self-control. The appetites and passions must be held in subjection to the higher powers of the mind. This self-discipline is essential to that mental strength and spiritual insight which will enable us to understand and to practice the sacred truths of God’s word. For this reason temperance finds its place in the work of preparation for Christ’s second coming.” *—The Desire of Ages*, p. 101.

REFLECTING JESUS, SELF ECLIPSED IN THE GLORY OF HIS CHARACTER

6. What does God’s word promise concerning God’s glory? Numbers 14:21; Psalm 72:19.

7. How did the apostles John, Peter, and Paul say this would be fulfilled? John 1:14; 2 Peter 1:4; Romans 8:18.

“Through trial and persecution the glory—the character—of God is revealed in His chosen ones.” *—The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 576.

“John [the Baptist] was a representative of the people of God in the last days, to whom God has committed important and solemn truths. The world at large are given to gluttony and the indulgence of base passions. The light of health reform is opened before the people of God at this day, that they may see the necessity of holding their appetites and passions under control of the higher powers of the mind.

Christ must abide in our hearts that we may keep before us pure principles, high incentives to moral rectitude. Our work is not merely to promise but to do. Honesty and integrity must bind us up with God to fulfill His word to the letter.

“Christ did not condemn the first son for refusing to obey his father’s command. At the same time He did not commend him. The class who act the part of the son who said, I will not, deserve no credit for holding the position they do. This openness is not to be commended as a virtue. Sanctified by truth and holiness, this element will make a man a bold witness for Christ; but used as it is by the sinner, it is insulting and defiant, and approaches to blasphemy. The fact that a man is not a hypocrite does not make him any less a sinner. When the appeals of the Spirit of God come to the heart, our only safety lies in responding to them without delay.” —*Review and Herald*, February 27, 1900.

How GOD GIVES MAN FREEDOM (JUSTIFICATION)

4. What wonderful benefits do those who accept the invitation to Heaven’s feast receive? John 17:3, 17.

“In His prayer to the Father, Christ gave to the world a lesson which should be graven on mind and soul. ‘This is life eternal,’ He said, ‘that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent.’ John 17:3. This is true education. It imparts power. The experimental knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ, whom He has sent, transforms man into the image of God. It gives to man the mastery of himself, bringing every impulse and passion of the lower nature under the control of the higher powers of the mind. It makes its possessor a son of God and an heir of heaven. It brings him into communion with the mind of the Infinite, and opens to him the rich treasures of the universe.” —*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 114.

“The Bible, just as it reads, is to be our guide. Nothing is so calculated to enlarge the mind and strengthen the intellect as the study of the Bible. No other study will so elevate the soul and give vigor to the faculties as the study of the living oracles.... As the mind is brought to the study of God’s word, the understanding will enlarge, and the higher powers will develop for the comprehension of high and ennobling truth. It is according to the character of the matter with which the mind becomes familiar that it is dwarfed or enlarged.” —*Review and Herald*, September 28, 1897.

changeable law of God, the foundation of His throne, the transcript of His character.” —*Faith and Works*, p. 90.

5. Although justice is enshrined at the foundation of God’s throne, what may freely be obtained there? Hebrews 4:15, 16; Revelation 4:3.

“In the rainbow above the throne is an everlasting testimony that ‘God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.’...

“As the bow in the cloud is formed by the union of the sunlight and the shower, so the rainbow encircling the throne represents the combined power of mercy and justice. It is not justice alone that is to be maintained; for this would eclipse the glory of the rainbow of promise above the throne; men could see only the penalty of the law. Were there no justice, no penalty, there would be no stability to the government of God. It is the mingling of judgment and mercy that makes salvation complete...” —*Maranatha*, p. 326.

“God’s love has been expressed in His justice no less than in His mercy. Justice is the foundation of His throne, and the fruit of His love. It had been Satan’s purpose to divorce mercy from truth and justice. He sought to prove that the righteousness of God’s law is an enemy to peace. But Christ shows that in God’s plan they are indissolubly joined together; the one cannot exist without the other. ‘Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.’ (Psalm 85:10).” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 762.

6. What special vision did God’s servant see in 1847? Hebrews 9:3-5.

“In the ark was the golden pot of manna, Aaron’s rod that budded, and the tables of stone which folded together like a book. Jesus opened them, and I saw the ten commandments written on them with the finger of God. On one table were four, and on the other six. The four on the first table shone brighter than the other six. But the fourth, the Sabbath commandment, shone above them all; for the Sabbath was set apart to be kept in honor of God’s holy name. The holy Sabbath looked glorious—a halo of glory was all around it. I saw that the Sab-

bath commandment was not nailed to the cross. If it was, the other nine commandments were; and we are at liberty to break them all, as well as to break the fourth. I saw that God had not changed the Sabbath, for He never changes. But the pope had changed it from the seventh to the first day of the week; for he was to change times and laws.

“And I saw that if God had changed the Sabbath from the seventh to the first day, He would have changed the writing of the Sabbath commandment, written on the tables of stone, which are now in the ark in the most holy place of the temple in heaven; and it would read thus: The first day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God. But I saw that it read the same as when written on the tables of stone by the finger of God, and delivered to Moses on Sinai. ‘But the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God.’ I saw that the holy Sabbath is, and will be, the separating wall between the true Israel of God and unbelievers; and that the Sabbath is the great question to unite the hearts of God’s dear, waiting saints.” *—Early Writings*, pp. 32, 33.

7. Shortly before that date, what had Jesus done? What did this signify for God’s people? Daniel 7:13, 14.

“Then Jesus rose up from the throne, and the most of those who were bowed down arose with Him.... Those who arose when Jesus did, kept their eyes fixed on Him as He left the throne and led them out a little way. Then He raised His right arm, and we heard His lovely voice saying, ‘Wait here; I am going to My Father to receive the kingdom; keep your garments spotless, and in a little while I will return from the wedding and receive you to Myself.’ Then a cloudy chariot, with wheels like flaming fire, surrounded by angels, came to where Jesus was. He stepped into the chariot and was borne to the holiest, where the Father sat. There I beheld Jesus, a great High Priest, standing before the Father. On the hem of His garment was a bell and a pomegranate, a bell and a pomegranate. Those who rose up with Jesus would send up their faith to Him in the holiest, and pray, ‘My Father, give us Thy Spirit.’ Then Jesus would breathe upon them the Holy Ghost. In that breath was light, power, and much love, joy, and peace.” *—Early Writings*, p. 55.

8. How do we remain under the joy and freedom of Christ’s rule? Hebrews 3:6.

CHOOSING OR REJECTING GOD AS THE AUTHORITY IN OUR LIVES

1. What contrast is seen in those who chose God as opposed to those who rejected His authority? Genesis 4:16; 5:24; Luke 22:4.

2. What three categories of excuses for disobedience did Jesus mention? Luke 14:18-20.

“All these refuse the Saviour’s call because they fear division in the family circle. They suppose that in refusing to obey God they are insuring the peace and prosperity of the home; but this is a delusion. Those who sow selfishness will reap selfishness. In rejecting the love of Christ they reject that which alone can impart purity and steadfastness to human love. They will not only lose heaven, but will fail of the true enjoyment of that for which heaven was sacrificed.” *—Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 225.

“The very blessings that God has given to these men, to prove them, to see if they will render unto God ‘the things that are God’s,’ [Mark 12:17] they use as an excuse for refusing to obey the claims of truth.” *—Review and Herald*, January 17, 1899.

3. In the parable of the two sons (Matthew 21:28-32), Jesus illustrated two additional classes of people. Explain how the various elements in this parable represent and apply to us today.

“The history of Israel as presented in this parable should be studied by all who would practice the teachings of Christ. The vineyard represents the church. The two sons are the two classes of men and women in the world. The Lord calls every member of the church to work in His vineyard. We are to understand our relation to Christ.

7. **Describe the relationship between our being diligent students of God's word, a proper understanding of that word, and the finishing of His work. John 14:26; Acts 4:31.**

***PARENTS, HELP YOUR CHILDREN GROW UP WITH A CLEAN
CONSCIENCE***

“...Parents, do all in your power to help your children to have a pure, clean conscience. Teach them to feed on the Word of God. Teach them that they are the Lord's little children. Do not forget that He has appointed you as their guardians. If you will give them proper food and dress them healthfully, and if you will diligently teach them the Word of the Lord, line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little and there a little, with much prayer to our heavenly Father, your efforts will be richly rewarded.” —*Mind, Character and Personality*, p. 327.

6

Sabbath, November 10, 2001

The Carnal vs. the Spiritual Mind

“The will is the governing power in the nature of man, bringing all the other faculties under its sway.... It is the deciding power....” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 513.

“The will is the governing power in the nature of man. If the will is set right, all the rest of the being will come under its sway. The will is not the taste or the inclination, but it is the choice, the deciding power, the kingly power, which works in the children of men to obedience to God or to disobedience.” —*Christian Temperance and Bible Hygiene*, pp. 147, 148.

“If you hold the beginning of your confidence firm unto the end, your ways will be established in God; and what grace has begun, glory will crown in the kingdom of our God.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 148.

12

Sabbath, September 22, 2001

The Purpose of Satan's Manifestations

THE SERPENT, THE DRAGON, AND THE BEAST

1. **As what did Satan introduce himself in this world? Genesis 3:1; Revelation 12:9.**
2. **In this manifestation, what was his goal? 2 Corinthians 11:3; 1 Timothy 2:14.**
3. **What form did he assume during the time of imperial Rome? Revelation 12:3.**

“The line of prophecy in which these symbols are found begins with Revelation 12, with the dragon that sought to destroy Christ at His birth. The dragon is said to be Satan (Revelation 12:9); he it was that moved upon Herod to put the Saviour to death. But the chief agent of Satan in making war upon Christ and His people during the first centuries of the Christian Era was the Roman Empire, in which

paganism was the prevailing religion. Thus while the dragon, primarily, represents Satan, it is, in a secondary sense, a symbol of pagan Rome.” –*The Great Controversy*, p. 438.

4. In what form did Satan manifest himself during the time of the Holy Roman Empire (A.D. 538-1798)? Revelation 13:1, 2.

“In chapter 13 (verses 1-10) is described another beast, ‘like unto a leopard,’ to which the dragon gave ‘his power, and his seat, and great authority.’ This symbol, as most Protestants have believed, represents the papacy, which succeeded to the power and seat and authority once held by the ancient Roman empire.” –*The Great Controversy*, p. 439.

COUNTERFEITING GOD’S WORK

5. What words did Paul use to describe Satan’s appearance, and what contrasting phrase did he use for the incarnation of Christ? 2 Thessalonians 2:7; 1 Timothy 3:16.

6. Considering the great influence gained by our Saviour after His resurrection, what is Satan’s strategy with the beast, and what will be the result? Revelation 13:3, 4, 8.

7. What has ever been Satan’s purpose in his various manifestations? Revelation 12:9.

8. In his final spiritualistic presentation, what will be Satan’s major points of deception?

“If the Bible were read more, if its truths were better understood, we should be a far more enlightened and intelligent people. Energy is imparted to the soul by searching its pages.” –*Child Guidance*, p. 507.

“Those who obtain a knowledge of God’s will, and practice the teaching of His word, will be found faithful in whatever position of trust they may be placed.” –*Christian Education*, p. 198.

“Studied and obeyed, the word of God would give to the world men of stronger and more active intellect than will the closest application to all the subjects that human philosophy embraces. It would give men of strength and solidity of character, of keen perception and sound judgment—men who would be an honor to God and a blessing to the world.” –*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 599.

6. From the following list of illustrations for the word of God, choose one and explain how it affects the conscience.

- Light for our feet (Psalm 119:105)
- Spiritual food (Jeremiah 15:16; Matthew 4:4)
- Sword and sword of the Spirit (Hebrews 4:12; Ephesians 6:17)
- Seed (Luke 8:11)
- Producer of faith (Romans 10:17)
- Fire, hammer (Jeremiah 23:29)

“All who come to Christ for a clearer knowledge of the truth will receive it. He will unfold to them the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, and these mysteries will be understood by the heart that longs to know the truth. A heavenly light will shine into the soul temple, and will be revealed to others as the bright shining of a lamp on a dark path.” –*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 36.

“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.” –*Gospel Workers*, p. 299.

“Our salvation is complete, because it is founded on the accomplishment of a plan laid before the foundation of the world. Before Christ came, a ceremonial holiness could be obtained by offering the blood of bulls and of goats; but these sacrifices could not cleanse the conscience. They were but a representation of Christ, the great sacrifice. The substance of all the sacrifices and offerings, He came to this world to do God’s will by offering Himself. He came as the world’s Redeemer, to stand at the head of humanity. The Holy Spirit comes to man through Christ. We are given a decided testimony regarding the value of Christ’s offering. God’s word declares, ‘By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.’ [Hebrews 10:10.] It was a whole and entire sacrifice that was made for us.” —*Review and Herald*, July 25, 1899.

PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS

3. **In the Lord's Supper, Jesus spoke about our relationship to Himself. With what did He compare this relationship, and therefore what may we expect? John 13:16; 1 Peter 2:21.**
4. **What else is part of being a Christian in this world of sorrow? Matthew 19:27-29. Present some Biblical or personal experiences that show this principle. For example, see Genesis 12:1-6.**

RELATIONSHIP TO HIS WORD

- 5. As we practically apply the hope and instruction presented in the Scriptures, how does Christ dwelling in us through the Holy Spirit give us a clean conscience? 1 Peter 3:12-18.**

“Clinging to the papal error of natural immortality and man’s consciousness in death, they have rejected the only defense against the delusions of spiritualism. The doctrine of eternal torment has led many to disbelieve the Bible. And as the claims of the fourth commandment are urged upon the people, it is found that the observance of the seventh-day Sabbath is enjoined; and as the only way to free themselves from a duty which they are unwilling to perform, many popular teachers declare that the law of God is no longer binding. Thus they cast away the law and the Sabbath together. As the work of Sabbath reform extends, this rejection of the divine law to avoid the claims of the fourth commandment will become well-nigh universal. The teachings of religious leaders have opened the door to infidelity, to spiritualism, and to contempt for God’s holy law; and upon these leaders rests a fearful responsibility for the iniquity that exists in the Christian world.”

–*The Great Controversy*, pp. 586, 587.

DISCUSSION QUESTION

How are Satan's various instruments—as the serpent, the dragon, the leopard beast, and soon as the scarlet beast in Revelation 17—actually forms of spiritualism?

*Please read the Missionary Report
from Korea on page 45*

13

Sabbath, September 29, 2001

Sabbath or Sunday: A Choice of Authority

"I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live." Deuteronomy 30:19.

ELIJAH'S CALL TO DECISION: BAAL OR JEHOVAH?

1. **What choice did Elijah once urge the people of his generation to make? How does that relate to our present time? 1 Kings 18:21.**

"Though in a different form, idolatry exists in the Christian world today as verily as it existed among ancient Israel in the days of Elijah. The god of many professedly wise men, of philosophers, poets, politicians, journalists—the god of polished fashionable circles, of many colleges and universities, even of some theological institutions—is little better than Baal, the sun-god of Phenicia." —*The Great Controversy*, p. 583.

A PARALLEL TO BAAL WORSHIP IN THE LAST DAYS

2. **When will Elijah's message be heard again? Malachi 4:5.**

"The messages from heaven are of a character to arouse opposition. The faithful witnesses for Christ and the truth will reprove sin.

5

Sabbath, November 3, 2001

Responsibility to Oneself (A clean conscience)

"And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men." Acts 24:16.

"...In the word of God we read that there are good and bad consciences.... Take your conscience to the word of God, and see if your life and character are in accordance with the standard of righteousness which God has there revealed." —*Review and Herald*, September 3, 1901.

A HOLY IDEAL, A HOLY DESIRE

1. **What ideal is presented in the Scriptures of a clean conscience? Matthew 5:8, 48; Ephesians 4:13; Mark 4:26-29.**

"Day by day the sanctifying influence of the Spirit of God almost imperceptibly leads those who love the ways of truth toward the perfection of righteousness, till finally the soul is ripe for the harvest, the life-work is ended, God gathers in His grain. There is no period in the Christian life when there is no more to learn, no higher attainments to reach. Sanctification is the work of a lifetime. First the blade, then the ear, then the full corn in the ear, then the ripening and the harvest; for when the fruit is perfect, it is ready for the sickle." —*Spirit of Prophecy*, vol. 2, p. 244.

2. **What does the Lord hate, and what has He given to make it possible for us to overcome? Zechariah 8:17; John 17:17; 1 Peter 2:22. Why can spiritual cleansing not be accomplished simply by performing a ceremonial formality?**

CURSE OF SELFISHNESS VS. JOY OF SERVICE
(UNHAPPINESS VS. HAPPINESS)

7. Search in your Bible and start with the following examples to make a list of Christ's values. You may want to begin with Psalm 40:8.

- Christ delighted to _____
- Christ saw others as _____
- He overcame by _____
- In trial, He was _____
- In duty, He was _____
- The rights of others He _____
- He gave others the opportunity to _____
- He never _____
- He almost never _____
- He always _____
- He almost always _____
- _____
- _____

“Our Saviour lived not to please Himself, neither must we.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 40.

“The religion of Christ will unite in close brotherhood all who accept its teachings. It was the mission of Jesus to reconcile men to God, and thus to one another.” –*The Great Controversy*, p. 47.

Their words will be like a hammer to break the flinty heart, like a fire to consume the dross. There is constant need of earnest, decided messages of warning. God will have men who are true to duty. At the right time He sends His faithful messengers to do a work similar to that of Elijah.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 254.

3. What prophecy in the Bible presents a situation similar to that of Elijah being persecuted by Jezebel? How will the power represented by the symbolic woman in that prophecy imitate the work of the archetypical model? Revelation 17:3-5.

4. How has the fallen Roman church introduced a form of sun worship into the Christian faith? How is this a denial of God's authority? Daniel 7:7, 8, 25; Romans 1:25.

<i>Date/Event</i>	<i>Authoritative Statement</i>
c. 155 First record of weekly Sunday observance	Justin Martyr: “And on the day we call Sunday, all who live in cities or in the country gather together to one place, and the memoirs of the apostles or writings of the prophets are read, as long as time permits; then when the reader has ceased, the president verbally instructs, and exhorts to the imitation of these good things.”
185(?)–253/254	Origen of Alexandria: “It is fitting for whoever is righteous among the saints to keep also the festival of the Sabbath.... On the day of the Sabbath nothing of worldly works ought to be performed. If therefore you cease from all worldly works, and do nothing mundane, but are free for spiritual works, you come to the church, discussions and thoughts of heavenly things, give attention to the future life, keep before your eyes the coming judgment, do not regard present and visible things but the invisible and future: This is the observance of the Christian Sabbath.” – <i>Homily 23 on Numbers</i> .
3rd Century	Tertullian: “Others, with greater regard to good manners, it must be confessed, suppose that the sun is the god of the Christians, because it is a well-known fact that we pray towards the east, or because we make Sunday a day of festivity.” – <i>To the Nations</i> 1,13,1.

<i>Date/ Event</i>	<i>Authoritative Statement</i>
321 First Sunday law	Constantine: “All judges and city people and the craftsmen shall rest upon the venerable day of the sun. Country people, however, may freely attend to the cultivation of the fields, because it frequently happens that no other days are better adapted for planting the grain in the furrows or the vines in trenches. So that the advantage given by heavenly providence may not for the occasion of a short time perish.” –Joseph Cullen Ayer, <i>A Source Book for Ancient History</i> , quoted in the Appendix to <i>The Great Controversy</i> , p. 680.
1562	Council of Trent: “The authority of the church could therefore not be bound to the authority of the Scriptures, because the church had changed circumcision into baptism, Sabbath into Sunday, not by the command of Christ, but by its own authority.” –Speech made by Archbishop of Reggio, January 18, 1562.
1876	Louis Gaston de Segur , <i>Plain Talk About the Protestantism of Today</i> : “It was the Catholic Church which, by the authority of Jesus Christ, has transferred this [Sabbath] rest to Sunday in remembrance of the resurrection of our Lord. Thus the observance of Sunday by the Protestants is an homage they pay, in spite of themselves, to the authority of the [Catholic] Church.”
1893	<i>The Catholic Mirror</i> , pp. 29-31: “The Catholic Church for over one thousand years before the existence of a Protestant, by virtue of her Divine mission, changed the day from Saturday to Sunday. “But the Protestant says: How can I receive the teachings of an apostate Church? How, we ask, have you managed to receive her teaching all your life, in direct opposition to your recognized teacher, the Bible, on the Sabbath question?”
	Douay Catechism of 1649: “Q. Why was the Jewish Sabbath changed into the Sunday? “A. Because Christ was born on a Sunday, arose from the dead on a Sunday, and sent down the Holy Ghost on a Sunday—works not inferior to the creation of the world. “Q. By whom was it changed? “A. By the Governors of the Church, the Apostles, who also kept it; for St. John was in spirit on the Lord’s day (which was Sunday). –Revelation 1:10. “Q. How do you prove that the Church has power to command Feasts and Holy-days? “A. By this very act of changing the Sabbath into the Sunday, which is admitted by Protestants, and therefore they contradict themselves by keeping Sunday so strictly, and breaking most other Feasts commanded by the same Church.

“So utterly was Christ emptied of self that He made no plans for Himself. He accepted God’s plans for Him, and day by day the Father unfolded His plans. So should we depend upon God, that our lives may be the simple outworking of His will.” –*The Desire of Ages*, p. 208.

CHERISHING SPIRITUAL GIFTS AND OPPORTUNITIES AS DIVINELY ENDOWED

5. Our temporal gifts (time and means, talents and influence) are a trust from God. Why have they been given to us? Luke 12:42; 1 Corinthians 3:9; 1 Peter 4:10.

Our temporal gifts “are all a trust from God to be employed to His glory and the salvation of men. Nothing can be more offensive to God, who is constantly bestowing His gifts upon man, than to see him selfishly grasping these gifts and making no returns to the Giver. Jesus is today in heaven preparing mansions for those who love Him; yes, more than mansions, a kingdom which is to be ours. But all who shall inherit these blessings must be partakers of the self-denial and self-sacrifice of Christ for the good of others.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 732.

6. Using at least the following examples, describe some areas in which we can work to fulfill God’s plan for our existence and be in harmony with Him.

- James 4:8-11; Romans 5:1. “Whoever consents to renounce sin and open his heart to the love of Christ becomes a partaker of this heavenly peace.” –*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, p. 27.
- Philippians 4:8. “Those who love to engage in discussion generally lose their spirituality.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 3, p. 215.
- Ephesians 4:29. “No greater evidence need be asked that a person is at a great distance from Jesus, and living in neglect of secret prayer, neglecting personal piety, than the fact that he thus talks doubts and unbelief...” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2, p. 514.
- Rightly representing Jesus.
- Knowing and examining oneself! Where do you feel or think that you disappoint Jesus most often; i.e., what is your besetting sin?
- Make it a practice to praise Him for every victory, especially in how you represent Jesus, and notice how He helps you overcome!

2. What is our responsibility? Before whom will we stand and give an account of how we have performed our individual duty? Romans 14:12, 13; Matthew 10:32, 33.

“The only way to understand what is our duty is to study the Scriptures and to learn perfectly the lessons of Christ, and to make a good confession of faith, not with our lips only, but in spirit, words, and works.... But no one can confess Christ unless the Spirit of Christ abides within him as a living principle. The conversation and deportment will manifest what is in the heart, giving visible expression to the grace and truth within, or revealing the corruption and unbelief of the soul.” —*Review and Herald*, February 12, 1895.

CIRCLE OF INFLUENCE

3. Name some Biblical examples of individuals who did the right thing within their circle of influence, and explain what then happened to their influence. Some examples are: Genesis 39:4, 21; 41:39, 40; Numbers 14:24; Nehemiah 2:12, 17; 6:15, 16; Esther 4:1, 7, 8; 10:2; Acts 10, etc.

“No one lives to himself. In God’s work each one is assigned a post of duty. The union of all strengthens the work of each. As the faith and love and unity of the church grow stronger their circle of influence enlarges, and ever they are to reach to the farthest limit of this influence, constantly extending the triumphs of the cross.” —*Selected Messages*, vol. 1, p. 84.

With reference to this subject, one author prayed: “God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, Courage to change the things I can, And the wisdom to know the difference....” —Reinhold Niebuhr.

4. Humanly speaking, it is enough to have food, shelter, and clothing; but is that all there is to life? How are we using that which God has entrusted to us? James 1:27; Isaiah 58:6, 7.

<i>Date/ Event</i>	<i>Authoritative Statement</i>
	<p>“Q. How do you prove that?”</p> <p>“A. Because by keeping Sunday they acknowledge the power of the Church to ordain Feasts and to command them under sin, and by not keeping the remainder, equally commanded by her, they deny in fact the same power.”</p>

“The spirit of concession to paganism opened the way for a still further disregard of Heaven’s authority. Satan tampered with the fourth commandment also, and essayed to set aside the ancient Sabbath, the day which God had blessed and sanctified [Genesis 2:2, 3], and in its stead to exalt the festival observed by the heathen as ‘the venerable day of the sun.’...

“In the early part of the fourth century the emperor Constantine issued a decree making Sunday a public festival throughout the Roman Empire. The day of the sun was revered by his pagan subjects and was honored by Christians; it was the emperor’s policy to unite the conflicting interests of heathenism and Christianity. He was urged to do this by the bishops of the church, who, inspired by ambition and thirst for power, perceived that if the same day was observed by both Christians and heathen, it would promote the nominal acceptance of Christianity by pagans and thus advance the power and glory of the church. But while many God-fearing Christians were gradually led to regard Sunday as possessing a degree of sacredness, they still held the true Sabbath as the holy of the Lord and observed it in obedience to the fourth commandment.” —*The Great Controversy*, pp. 52, 53.

5. What link is there between the original transgression of God’s law in Eden and the nearly universal desecration of the Sabbath today? 1 John 3:4; James 2:10.

“It was Satan that incited Adam and Eve to transgress the command of their Maker, and he has continued this work even to our own day. We see the success of his attacks upon the law of God, in the widespread disregard for the ancient Sabbath of Jehovah, and the well-nigh universal veneration for the institution of heathenism and papacy.” —*Signs of the Times*, September 14, 1882.

6. Who will do the work in these last days that Elijah did in his day? What is their specially appointed task? Isaiah 58:12.

“This prophecy reaches down the centuries to the time when the man of sin attempted to make void one of the precepts of God’s law, to trample under foot the original Sabbath of Jehovah, and in its stead exalt one of his own creation. And when the Christian world set aside God’s holy Sabbath, and in its place accept a common working day, unsanctioned by a single ‘Thus saith the Lord,’ they are encouraging infidelity, and virtually acknowledging the supremacy of that power by whose authority alone the change has been effected. The rejection of the Sabbath has led to the rejection of the whole law, and thousands of professed Christians now boldly declare it void.” –*Signs of the Times*, February 28, 1884.

7. To what tragic historic event did Sister Ellen G. White compare the rejection of the Sabbath by the Christian world of today?

“God has given full directions regarding His law, so that none need be left in darkness, unless they choose darkness rather than light. But the apostasy of the Jewish nation represents the apostasy that will be made by the world in the last days. Just as the Jews chose darkness in regard to the message that Christ came to the world to bring, so men today are choosing darkness. Sanctified and blessed by God, the Sabbath was designed to be the great memorial of creation, and a blessing to mankind. But men are trampling it underfoot. It is the test of today, as Christ was the test when He was in our world in human form. It will ever stand unmoved, a rock of offense to the Christian world, as was Christ to the Jewish nation. As the rejection of Christ decided the eternal destiny of the Jews, so the rejection of God’s holy memorial will decide the fate of many professing Christians.” –*Review and Herald*, December 20, 1898.

8. In what spiritualistic disguise will Satan soon embody himself? How may we compare this to the “serpent of old” (Revelation 12:9)? Revelation 13:11, 12.

tan. Christ always separates the contrite soul from sin. He came to destroy the works of the devil, and He has made provision that the Holy Spirit shall be imparted to every repentant soul, to keep him from sinning.” –*The Desire of Ages*, p. 311.

THOUGHT QUESTION

- On which side am I standing if I compromise the truth I know?

4

Sabbath, October 27, 2001

Responsibility to our Fellowman

“We are dependent upon one another, closely bound together by the ties of human brotherhood.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 173.

GOD’S AUTHORITY AND LOVE—OUR PATTERN

- 1. Last week’s lesson dealt with our responsibility to God. In what ways is that responsibility different from and in what ways is it the same as our responsibility to our fellowman? John 13:34; Romans 12:9-18.**

“God has given us all that we possess. It all belongs to Him, and we are not to sit at the footstool of any man to obey his orders, for God has made us free moral agents. He requires us to preserve our moral independence, and not be bound by any man. Our consciences are to be controlled by no power on earth. The Holy Spirit will work upon minds if we will hearken to its faintest whispers. It is the voice of your Advocate in the heavenly courts.” –*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 17, p. 193.

“Christ’s ambassadors have nothing to do with consequences. They must perform their duty and leave results with God.” –*The Great Controversy*, pp. 609, 610.

almost full.... The Spirit of God is being withdrawn from the earth. When the angel of mercy folds her wings and departs, Satan will do the evil deeds he has long wished to do. Storm and tempest, war and bloodshed—in these things he delights, and thus he gathers in his harvest. And so completely will men be deceived by him that they will declare that these calamities are the result of the desecration of the first day of the week. “—*That I May Know Him*, p. 355.

8. What was one of Christ’s main objectives here on earth? Hebrews 2:14, 15; Luke 19:10. How do we either help or hinder Him in that objective today? Isaiah 52:7.

“The earth was dark through misapprehension of God. That the gloomy shadows might be lightened, that the world might be brought back to God, Satan’s deceptive power was to be broken. This could not be done by force. The exercise of force is contrary to the principles of God’s government; He desires only the service of love; and love cannot be commanded; it cannot be won by force or authority. Only by love is love awakened. To know God is to love Him; His character must be manifested in contrast to the character of Satan. This work only one Being in all the universe could do. Only He who knew the height and depth of the love of God could make it known.” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 22.

CHRIST’S GREAT WORK TODAY

9. How is Jesus rescuing precious souls from the power of the devil today? Hebrews 7:25; John 1:7-9.

“By pledging His own life Christ has made Himself responsible for every man and woman on the earth. He stands in the presence of God, saying, ‘Father, I take upon Myself the guilt of that soul. It means death to him if he is left to bear it. If he repents he shall be forgiven. My blood shall cleanse him from all sin. I gave My life for the sins of the world.’ ” —*In Heavenly Places*, p. 42.

“God’s ideal for His children is higher than the highest human thought can reach. ‘Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.’ This command is a promise. The plan of redemption contemplates our complete recovery from the power of Sa-

“The lamblike horns and dragon voice of the symbol point to a striking contradiction between the professions and the practice of the nation thus represented. The ‘speaking’ of the nation is the action of its legislative and judicial authorities. By such action it will give the lie to those liberal and peaceful principles which it has put forth as the foundation of its policy. The prediction that it will speak ‘as a dragon’ and exercise ‘all the power of the first beast’ plainly foretells a development of the spirit of intolerance and persecution that was manifested by the nations represented by the dragon and the leopardlike beast. And the statement that the beast with two horns ‘causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast’ indicates that the authority of this nation is to be exercised in enforcing some observance which shall be an act of homage to the papacy.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 442.

9. As in Eden, how will Satan use this beast to cause the population of the world to disobey a direct command of God? Revelation 13:13.

“When Sunday observance shall be enforced by law, and the world shall be enlightened concerning the obligation of the true Sabbath, then whoever shall transgress the command of God, to obey a precept which has no higher authority than that of Rome, will thereby honor popery above God. He is paying homage to Rome, and to the power which enforces the institution ordained by Rome. He is worshiping the beast and his image. As men then reject the institution which God has declared to be the sign of His authority, and honor in its stead that which Rome has chosen as the token of her supremacy, they will thereby accept the sign of allegiance to Rome—‘the mark of the beast.’ ” —*Evangelism*, pp. 233, 234.

10. What urgent message will culminate our mission on earth? Revelation 18:4.

“The Sabbath will be the great test of loyalty; for it is the point of truth especially controverted. When the final test shall be brought to bear upon men, then the line of distinction will be drawn between those who serve God and those who serve Him not. While the observance of the false sabbath in compliance with the law of the State,

contrary to the fourth commandment, will be an avowal of allegiance to a power that is in opposition to God, the keeping of the true Sabbath, in obedience to God's law, is an evidence of loyalty to the Creator. While one class, by accepting the sign of submission to earthly powers, receive the mark of the beast, the other, choosing the token of allegiance to divine authority, receive the seal of God." —*The Great Controversy*, p. 605.

"The sign, or seal, of God is revealed in the observance of the seventh-day Sabbath, the Lord's memorial of creation.... The mark of the beast is the opposite of this—the observance of the first day of the week. This mark distinguishes those who acknowledge the supremacy of the papal authority from those who acknowledge the authority of God." —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 8, p. 117.

GOD SHOWS THE WAY AND GIVES THE POWER

6. To climb out of the dark valley of our human nature and stand on the mountaintop of truth, what has God given us to climb? 1 Peter 1:2, 5-8.

"The road to paradise is not one of self-exaltation, but of repentance, confession, humiliation, of faith and obedience." —*Review and Herald*, December 23, 1890.

Before repentance, there must be acceptance; and before acceptance, one must have received a revelation of Jesus. Thus, there are seven steps or signposts on the way to heaven:

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| • Revelation | <i>of Jesus</i> |
| • Acceptance | <i>He is Saviour</i> |
| • Repentance | <i>"O wretched man ..."</i> |
| • Confession | <i>I have not ...</i> |
| • Humility | <i>I cannot ...</i> |
| • Faith | <i>God can!</i> |
| • Obedience | <i>God willing and doing in us</i>
<i>(we give to others a revelation of Jesus)</i> |

FREEDOM MAKES US RESPONSIBLE

"Because of His long forbearance, men have trampled upon His authority.... But there is a line beyond which they cannot pass." —*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 177.

7. At what point will the world cross the line of mercy and God withdraw His Spirit? What will be the consequences? Isaiah 24:4-6; 28:21; Nahum 1:3, 7-9.

"God keeps a reckoning with the nations.... In this age a more than common contempt is shown to God. Men have reached a point in insolence and disobedience which shows that their cup of iniquity is

***THE CHURCH'S RESPONSIBILITY IN DEALING WITH
SIN AND SINNERS***

4. **Describe how the church is required to act in matters dealing with sin. Matthew 18:15-18; 1 Corinthians 5:11.**

“Christ has plainly taught that those who persist in open sin must be separated from the church, but He has not committed to us the work of judging character and motive. He knows our nature too well to entrust this work to us.” —*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 71.

“A longsuffering Saviour held out every inducement for the sinner to receive Him, to repent, and to be cleansed from the defilement of sin. This example is for us. When we suppose one to be in error and sin, we are not to divorce ourselves from him. By no careless separation are we to leave him a prey to temptation, or drive him upon Satan's battleground. This is not Christ's method. It was because the disciples were erring and faulty that He washed their feet, and all but one of the twelve were thus brought to repentance.” —*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 655, 656.

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY

5. **To whom will Jesus say, “Depart from Me, ye that work iniquity...”? Matthew 7:23; 25:41-46.**

“Through life the class that are bidden depart from Christ have served and glorified themselves; and in their self-indulgence and self-pleasing it was impossible to form a character after Christ's likeness. They had the word of God, they may have even understood the theory of the truth, but they did not exercise themselves unto godliness. Satisfied in their sufficiency, their daily acts decided their own destiny, and they formed a character exactly contrary to the character of Christ. They failed to comprehend the value and significance of the infinite sacrifice made to save their souls. Had they responded to the great love that had been manifested for them, they would have been convinced of their own weakness and sinfulness, and would have loved God with the whole heart and their neighbors as themselves.” —*Signs of the Times*, August 7, 1893.

Missionary Report from Korea

To be read on Sabbath, September 29, 2001

**The Special Sabbath School Offerings
will be gathered on Sabbath, October 6, 2001**

Our country of Korea is a small peninsular land located on the eastern end of the Asian continent. It is surrounded on three sides by the sea, and it shares its northern borders with China and Russia. The Korean Sea is between it and Japan. Following World War II, Korea was unfortunately divided into two, with one side standing with the United States (South Korea); and the other, with Russia (North Korea). This has been the situation for more than half a century. North Korea still insists on being a communist country, and it has no religious freedom. But South Korea is a country where Christianity has developed the most in Asia. Covering 99,373 square kilometers, it has a population of about 45 million people, so it is quite densely populated.

The Seventh-day Adventist message came to Korea in the early 1900s. The International Missionary Society first found its place in this country only in May 2000 through the visit of Brother Branko Cholich. Thus, as the new century begins, the Korean Field has been organized and has about 50 members. With God's help we want to play an important part in helping the gospel spread not only in Korea but also in China, Russia, Japan, North Korea, and the North-east Asian countries.

The capital city, Seoul, is a large city of 12 million people. One of our first priorities is to establish a church as a missionary center in this place. Seoul hosted the 1988 Olympic Games, and since that time people from many countries have been very interested in visiting this city. That is why we see it as especially important to establish a meeting place there. We pray that the interest of our brothers and sisters around the world will be centered on the Korean Field on the first Sabbath of October 2001 and that they will help us with their prayers and generous offerings.

The newly born Korean Field can only grow with your prayers and support. We thank God very much for pouring out His blessings upon the Korean Field. We are also very thankful to all the brothers and sisters throughout the world who extend their hand of gener-

ous help. We pray that God's blessings will rest upon you as we remember the promise of Jesus: "He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward. And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward." Matthew 10:41, 42.

—*The Korean Field Committee*

2. How was the divine principle of love, which underlies the way God deals with sin and all sinners, manifested? John 3:16.

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

"Wondrous combination of man and God!" —*Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 5, p. 1127.

3. What has the church often suffered? Matthew 13:25, 28. What is the responsibility of every church member? Galatians 6:1, 10.

"There has been a picking at straws. And when there were no real difficulties in the church, trials have been manufactured. The minds of the church and the servants of the Lord are called from God, truth, and heaven to dwell upon darkness. Satan delights to have such things go on; it feasts him. But these are none of the trials which are to purify the church and that will in the end increase the strength of God's people." —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, pp. 144, 145.

"Do not forcibly pull up the tares, lest in rooting them up the precious blades will become loosened. Both ministers and church members should be very cautious, lest they get a zeal not according to knowledge. There is danger of doing too much to cure difficulties in the church, which, if let alone, will frequently work their own cure. It is bad policy to take hold of matters in any church prematurely. We shall have to exercise the greatest care, patience, and self-control to bear these things and not go to work in our own spirit to set them in order." —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 3, p. 113.

Individual Responsibility to God

Individual responsibility, liberty of conscience, free will, the power of choice, personal accountability—these are all synonyms.

No COMPULSION IN GOD'S WORK

Luther, in following Huss ("the first great sacrifice in the long struggle by which liberty of conscience was to be secured." —*The Great Controversy*, p. 108), said, "Let there be no compulsion. I have been laboring for liberty of conscience. Liberty is the very essence of faith." —Quoted in *Spirit of Prophecy*, vol. 4, p. 148. This is the root of the tree.

1. **Under threat of death, what did human authority command, and what did it forbid in the time of Daniel? Daniel 3:4-6; 6:7. What parallels can be seen in the apostasy of the early church, as well as just ahead of us in the Sunday law?**

"The very beginning of the great apostasy was in seeking to supplement the authority of God by that of the church. Rome began by enjoining what God had not forbidden, and she ended by forbidding what He had explicitly enjoined....

"To protect liberty of conscience is the duty of the state, and this is the limit of its authority in matters of religion. Every secular government that attempts to regulate or enforce religious observances by civil authority is sacrificing the very principle for which the evangelical Christian so nobly struggled." —*The Great Controversy*, pp. 289, 290, 201. See also *The Great Controversy*, p. 443; *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, pp. 452-454.

SABBATH SCHOOL LESSONS

for the Fourth Quarter 2001

God's Authority in the Universe

Introduction

"God's authority is to stand supreme in its moral dignity and power. And I must call upon the people of God to recognize His authority, an authority which bears the evidence of its divine origin, and which is commendable and acceptable in the sight of His children on the earth and in the whole heavenly universe. Every soul is called upon to connect himself inseparably with God's authority." —*Battle Creek Letters*, p. 74 (written November 28, 1902).

When one first reads the title of the Sabbath School Lessons for this quarter—"God's Authority in the Universe"—it is very likely that his mind goes immediately to the thought of God as the Creator, Lawgiver, and ultimate Power in the universe. By virtue of His having brought all things into existence and because He is all-powerful, it is logical to us that His authority should rule and judge. This is reflected also in the first angel's message: "Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come: and worship Him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters." Revelation 14:7. The enemy of God and man takes these truths and tries to make people think of God as arbitrary and exacting, exercising raw power.

But God is perfect, holy, longsuffering, loving, and merciful. He knows what happens to His created beings when sin takes hold of them. Sin is represented in the Scriptures by leprosy, which deforms the whole being. Today,

we think of it as cancer or some other deadly disease, which begins in a small place and spreads its deadly influence to the whole body. Each of us is born with tendencies to sin already gripping us.

That is why the Sabbath school and the subject which we will study this quarter are so important. Our minds are directed to the infinitely loving God, who gave that which was most precious to Him so that every human being could have the opportunity to choose the authority which would govern him. We will study how God exercises His authority, particularly the deep spiritual, intellectual, and emotional reasons underlying everything He does. In addition, we will examine how His representatives on earth should exercise the authority with which He has invested them. After all, everyone who receives Christ into his heart and life, thus partaking of the divine nature, is given certain privilege and authority to represent God and His kingdom.

Let each Bible student put forth earnest effort in considering this important subject. Let us also be faithful stewards of the grace which God has so generously and graciously entrusted to us.

—THE BROTHERS AND SISTERS
OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

powers to be strong and vigorous; then the entrusted talents will grow, as a steady, uniform, unyielding energy is exercised in bearing individual responsibility.” —*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 475.

7. **When, through the power of God, we overcome sin, what do we confirm to the entire universe concerning Him? Revelation 15:3.**

8. **What will even those who are lost recognize concerning their own choice in determining their final destiny? Isaiah 45:22, 23; Romans 14:10, last part, 11, 12.**

“All see that their exclusion from heaven is just. By their lives they have declared: ‘We will not have this Man [Jesus] to reign over us.’” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 668.

“God destroys no man. Everyone who is destroyed will have destroyed himself. Everyone who stifles the admonitions of conscience is sowing the seeds of unbelief, and these will produce a sure harvest.” —*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 84.

“God never honors unbelief and questioning and doubt. When He speaks, His word is to be recognized and carried out in the daily actions. And if the heart of man is in living connection with God, the voice that cometh from above will be recognized.” —*Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, p. 26.

FREE WILL ALLOWS MAN TO WORSHIP GOD VOLUNTARILY

5. **If we are free moral agents, who is responsible for our actions? Joshua 24:14, 15; 1 Kings 18:21.**

“Our work is to study to weed out of all our discourses everything that savors of retaliation and defiance and making a drive against churches and individuals, because this is not Christ’s way and method. He did not pronounce scathing rebukes against those who did not know the truth, but against those whom God had made the depositaries of sacred responsibilities, a people chosen and favored with every temporal and spiritual advantage, and yet bearing no fruit. The most solemn responsibility for the Jewish nation was when Jesus was in their midst. It was that generation, the generation which rejected Him, that was the guilty one. Jesus, speaking sometimes by warning, by judgments, by blessing given and withdrawn, said, ‘They would none of My counsel, they despised all My reproofs.’... The curse is pronounced upon the fig tree, which represents the moral, thinking, living agent, cursed of God, living as were the Jews for forty years after this event, yet dead. Mark, the other trees, representing the Gentiles, were not covered. They were leafless, making no pretension to having a knowledge of God. Their time of fruit-leaving was not yet.” —*Special Testimonies*, No. A07, pp. 59, 60.

FREE WILL GRANTS US JOY AND PEACE DESPITE EXTERNAL CIRCUMSTANCES

6. **How will we view all external things when we measure them in the balances of eternal realities? Malachi 3:2; Hebrews 12:29; Acts 13:47.**

“In order for you to become men and women that can be depended upon, there must be a growth of the powers, the exercise of every faculty, even in little things; then greater power is acquired to bear larger responsibilities. Individual responsibility and accountability are essential. In putting into practice that which you are learning during your student days, do not shrink from bearing your share of responsibility because there are risks to take, because something must be ventured. Do not leave others to be brains for you. You must train your

Special Sabbath School Offering for KOREA

May God bless and multiply your offering for His glory!

1

Sabbath, October 6, 2001

The Foundation of God’s Authority

The Review Lesson presented the principles involved in the great controversy. Now we want to examine what lies behind those issues and attempt to determine how closely we are working with the mind of God.

GOD IS WORKING TO UNMASK HIS ADVERSARY

1. **Where did the great controversy begin, and over what issue? Isaiah 14:12-14; John 8:44.**

According to the Scriptures and the Testimonies, it began in the mind of Lucifer over the authority of Jesus. “Satan, ambitious to exalt himself, and unwilling to submit to the authority of Jesus, was insinuating against the government of God.... Satan and his sympathizers were striving to reform the government of God. They wished to look into His unsearchable wisdom, and ascertain His purpose in exalting Jesus and endowing Him with such unlimited power and command. They rebelled against the authority of the Son.” —*Early Writings*, pp. 145, 146.

2. **Even though God created the heavens and the earth by the power of His word, He chose not to use force to reestablish order in heaven. Why not? Think of and mention additional reasons besides the obvious ones presented in the Bible text and note below. Deuteronomy 30:19.**

“God never forces the will or the conscience; but Satan’s constant resort—to gain control of those whom he cannot otherwise seduce—is compulsion by cruelty.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 591.

“The kingdom of Satan is a kingdom of force; every individual regards every other as an obstacle in the way of his own advancement, or a steppingstone on which he himself may climb to a higher place.” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 436.

“God could have destroyed Satan and all his sympathizers as easily as one can pick up a pebble and cast it to the earth. But by so doing he would have given a precedent for the exercise of force. All the compelling power is found only under Satan’s government. The Lord’s principles are not of this order. He would not work on this line. He would not give the slightest encouragement for any human being to set himself up as God over another human being, feeling at liberty to cause him physical or mental suffering. This principle is wholly of Satan’s creation.” —*Review and Herald*, September 7, 1897.

GOD’S KINGDOM IS BASED ON FREEWILL SERVICE

3. What especially distinguishes man from the rest of earth’s creation? Genesis 4:7. How did Christ work in this regard?

Restoration of man’s free will is one of the accomplishments of the gospel. In connection with this issue, we read: “Why was the work of Christ productive of such meager results, during His personal ministry upon earth? Miracles of goodness and mercy marked His life; but while He healed the afflicted, and cast out the demons that persecuted men, He left to themselves the work of correcting the evils of their natures. He instructed them how to unite their human efforts with His divine power, and triumph through His strength over the sins that beset them.

“This experience was necessary in order to give moral power to the Christian character and fit it for the courts of Heaven. Jesus employed no miraculous agency to compel men to believe in Him. They were left to choose or reject Him, of their own free will. No direct power was to force them into obedience, and destroy the free moral agency that God has given to man.” —*Spirit of Prophecy*, vol. 2, p. 241.

4. What freedom has God given to man? Isaiah 1:18.

2. Is our natural condition one of freedom or slavery? Give scriptural as well as practical proof for your answer! Romans 7:18; Ephesians 2:3; 1 John 5:19.

3. What will the gospel, rightly understood, do for us? Isaiah 61:1; John 8:31, 32; 2 Corinthians 3:17.

“The sweetest type of heaven is a home where the Spirit of the Lord presides. If the will of God is fulfilled, the husband and wife will respect each other and cultivate love and confidence.” —*Signs of the Times*, November 14, 1892 (*The Adventist Home*, p. 15).

FREE WILL CLEARS GOD OF THE CHARGE OF ARBITRARY USE OF AUTHORITY

4. How can we cooperate with God so our characters (our hearts) can be changed to reflect His character? Romans 12:2; Ephesians 4:21-24.

“Our work is to place our will on the side of God’s will....

“Your will is the spring of all your actions. This will, that forms so important a factor in the character of man, was at the Fall given into the control of Satan; and he has ever since been working in man to will and to do of his own pleasure, but to the utter ruin and misery of man. But the infinite sacrifice of God in giving Jesus, His beloved Son, to become a sacrifice for sin, enables Him to say, without violating one principle of His government: ‘Yield yourself up to Me; give Me that will; take it from the control of Satan, and I will take possession of it; then I can work in you to will and to do of My good pleasure.’ When He gives you the mind of Christ, your will becomes as His will, and your character is transformed to be like Christ’s character.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, pp. 741, 515.

Reestablishing God's Authority

Last Sabbath's lesson ended with self-examination—how the Sabbath school student views his or her own approach to living the gospel. However, how we see ourselves is not the same as how our neighbor sees us, or even as God sees us. Therefore, once we have examined ourselves to see if we are in the faith, we need to look away from self to Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith. He alone is the “True Witness” and will help us to see ourselves as we really are and in a manner that we can bear. He does this by revealing Himself and gives us the opportunity to compare ourselves with Him so we may copy His matchless charms.

FREE WILL MAKES MAN RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS ACTIONS

1. **Where is earth's last battle going to be fought? 1 Chronicles 29:17; Psalm 139:23, 24.**

“Unless the mind of God becomes the mind of man, every effort to purify himself will be useless; for it is impossible to elevate man except through a knowledge of God. The outward gloss may be put on, and men may be as were the Pharisees whom Jesus describes as ‘whited sepulchers,’ full of corruption and dead men's bones. But all the deformity of the soul is open to Him who judgeth righteously, and unless the truth is planted in the heart, it cannot control the life. Cleansing the outside of the cup will never make the vessel pure within. A nominal acceptance of truth is good as far as it goes, and the ability to give a reason for our faith is a good accomplishment, but if the truth does not go deeper than this, the soul will never be saved. The heart must be purified from all moral defilement.” —*The Youth's Instructor*, March 1, 1894 (*Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 7, p. 951; *Our High Calling*, p. 142).

“Satan has come right in and placed himself between God and man. It is his work to divert the human mind.” —*Mind, Character and Personality*, vol. 1, p. 21.

“God does not force the will of His creatures. He cannot accept an homage that is not willingly and intelligently given. A mere forced submission would prevent all real development of mind or character; it would make man a mere automaton. Such is not the purpose of the Creator. He desires that man, the crowning work of His creative power, shall reach the highest possible development. He sets before us the height of blessing to which He desires to bring us through His grace. He invites us to give ourselves to Him, that He may work His will in us. It remains for us to choose whether we will be set free from the bondage of sin, to share the glorious liberty of the sons of God.” —*Steps to Christ*, pp. 43, 44.

CAUSE AND EFFECT

5. **What eternal principle is at the heart of the gospel? Galatians 6:7.**

“Love begets love.” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 519.

“Littleness begets littleness, penuriousness begets penuriousness.” —*Evangelism*, p. 90.

“Like begets like. The same spirit which you manifest has been reflected upon you again. Your children have seen so little affection, tenderness, and gentleness that they have had nothing to win them to the truth or inspire them with respect for your authority. They have so long partaken of the evil fruits borne by you that their disposition is bitterness. They are not altogether corrupt; there are left beneath the uncultivated exterior, good impulses, which might be reached and brought to the surface. If your religious life had been more even, exemplifying the life of Christ, things would be different in your family. ‘Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.’ Just such as the seed you sow will be the harvest which you will gather. If gentle words were the order of the day in your dwelling, such fruit would you receive.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2, p. 79.

REPRESENTING GOD IN THEORY AND PRACTICE

6. **If we are redeemed, and thus ambassadors, priests, princes, and the children of God, how will we act? Isaiah 52:11; 2 Corinthians 6:16.**

“You wish to see the cause of God placed on vantage ground. By your example, as well as by your words, the people are to have a living assurance that the truth received into the heart begets the spirit of self-denial. And as you go forward in this spirit, there are many that will follow.

“The Lord desires His children to act in that self-denying, self-sacrificing way that will bring to us the satisfaction of having performed our duty well because it was duty. The only-begotten Son of God gave Himself to an ignominious death on the cross, and should we complain at the sacrifices we are called upon to make?” *–Selected Messages*, vol. 2, p. 206.

HOW WE THINK AND WORK

7. Read Ephesians 4:31, 32 and 1 Peter 4. Then list the contrasting methods in the appropriate columns.

Methods and means God uses	Methods of God's enemies
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
4.	4.
5.	5.
6.	6.
7.	7.

The book of Proverbs has hundreds of additional examples, and you are encouraged to expand the list.

8. How are you working at home and in the church? Following the counsel of 2 Corinthians 13:5, evaluate yourself, using the following form.

Mark the box in each row which best describes yourself: 5 indicates you think you are more on the left side, and 1 indicates you feel your characteristics are more on the right side. Numbers 2, 3, and 4 are in between.						
		5	4	3	2	1
Spirituality	Strong, stable, growing					Immature, shaky, stagnating
Sociability	Secure, outgoing, friendly					Shy, introverted, unsocial
Judgment	Sound, careful, teachable					Rash, impulsive, headstrong
Service Attitudes	Compassionate, unselfish, takes initiative					Indifferent, self-centered, needs direction
Industry	Diligent, thorough, follows through					Lazy, incomplete, needs constant supervision
Relation to the Church	Deeply committed, loyal, supportive					Critical, divisive, distant
Relation to the Testimonies	Informed, accepting, committed					Uninformed, skeptical, indifferent
Healthful Lifestyle	Informed, accepting, committed					Uninformed, neglectful
Intellect	Vigorous, creative, learning					Slow, unmotivated, self-satisfied

“Those who have been put in trust of the gospel, should be of the excellent of the earth, that they may be able to impart blessing of the highest order to those with whom they come in contact.” *–Review and Herald*, September 11, 1888.

THOUGHT QUESTIONS

- What kind of relationship do I have with my fellowmen and women, for whom Christ died?
- How am I working to promote His kingdom?