

Revelation, chapter 7, focuses on the special preparation Christ's followers must make as they ready themselves for His return.

Name _____

Address _____

Lesson 4 is titled, "The Third Angel's Message—Part I"
"Who Shall Be Able to Stand?"

This Maranatha Bible Reading Guide comes to you with the compliments of your friends in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. You can receive further information by writing or phoning the address nearest to you.

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what happens when Jesus comes?



13. How will Christ's coming change the righteous? 1 Corinthians 15:51-53 (NT 157).

The Bible says: "For this corruptible must put on _____, and this mortal must put on _____."

14. What effect will this event have on the wicked? Revelation 6:14-17 (NT 216).

The Bible says: _____.

15. To whom will Christ appear as Deliverer and Saviour when He comes the second time? Hebrews 9:28 (NT 195).

The Bible says: _____.

Lesson 3 concludes our overview of the end of the world. In Lesson 4 we begin our study of the third angel's message contained in Revelation 14. Turn in your Bible to Revelation 6:12-17 (NT 216). The passage records a question which vitally concerns each person. As you read the verses, notice that they describe again the signs preceding Christ's return, most of which you studied under question 3 in Lesson 2.

Revelation 6:12 (NT 216): "Lo, there was a great earthquake." The Lisbon earthquake, November 1, 1755, almost totally destroyed the city of Lisbon, Portugal, and caused damage over an estimated four million square miles. In six minutes more than 90,000 people lost their lives in Europe and Africa. Because of the timing of the disaster in relation to certain time prophecies in the Bible, which space does not permit us to discuss here, students of Bible prophecy believe that the Lisbon catastrophe fulfills the "great earthquake" of Revelation 6:12.

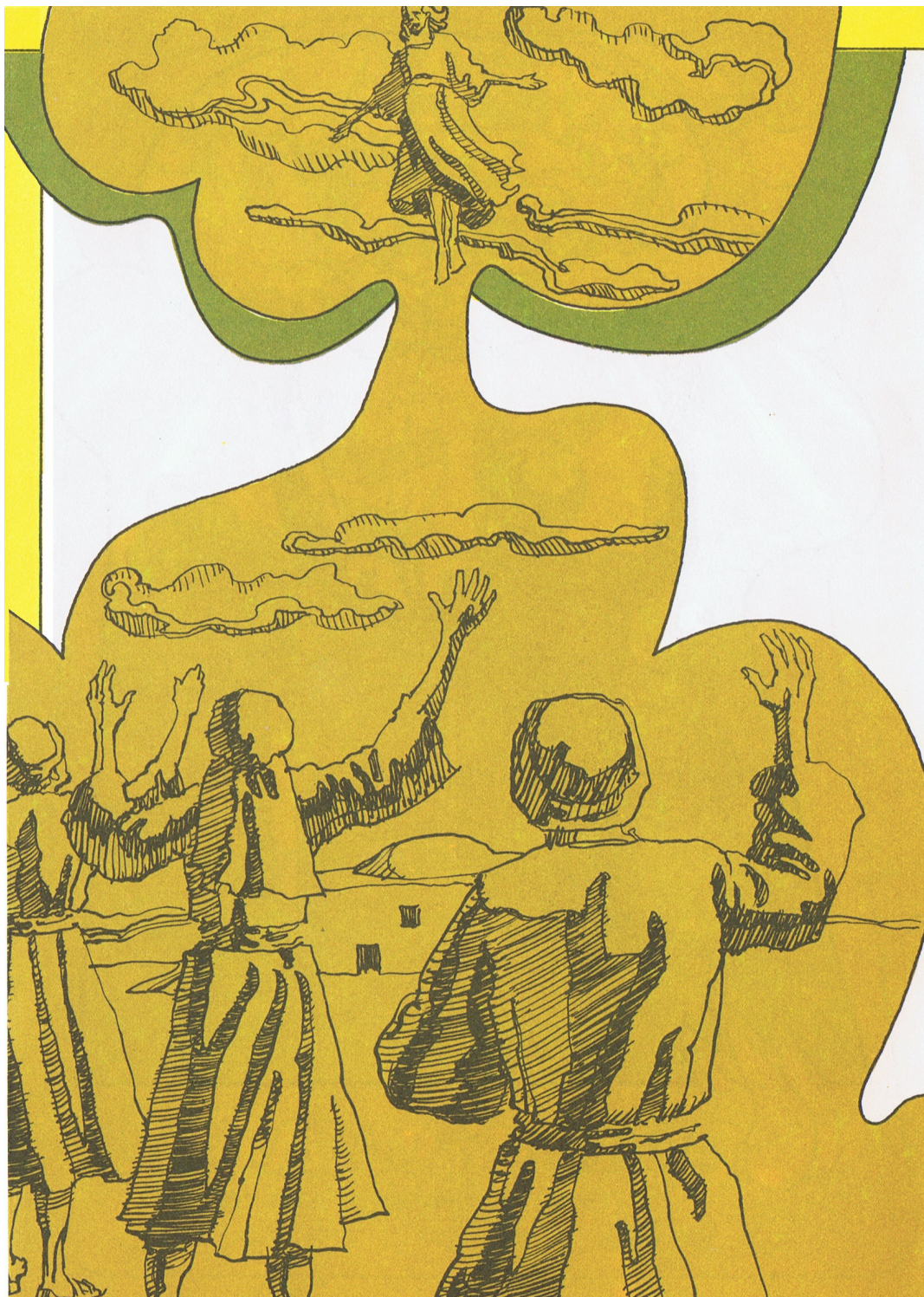
"And the sun became black as sackcloth of hair." Verse 12. (May 19, 1780.)

"And the moon became as blood." Verse 12. (May 19, 1780.)

"And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth." Verse 13. (November 13, 1833.)

Verses 14 to 16 describe Christ's coming and the effect it has on those not prepared. They "hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; and said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb." (Verse 16.)

Verse 17 projects a question that each of us must answer. "For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?" As members of God's family we want to be able to meet Christ in joy and peace with the words of Isaiah, "Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us." Isaiah 25:9. The next chapter of

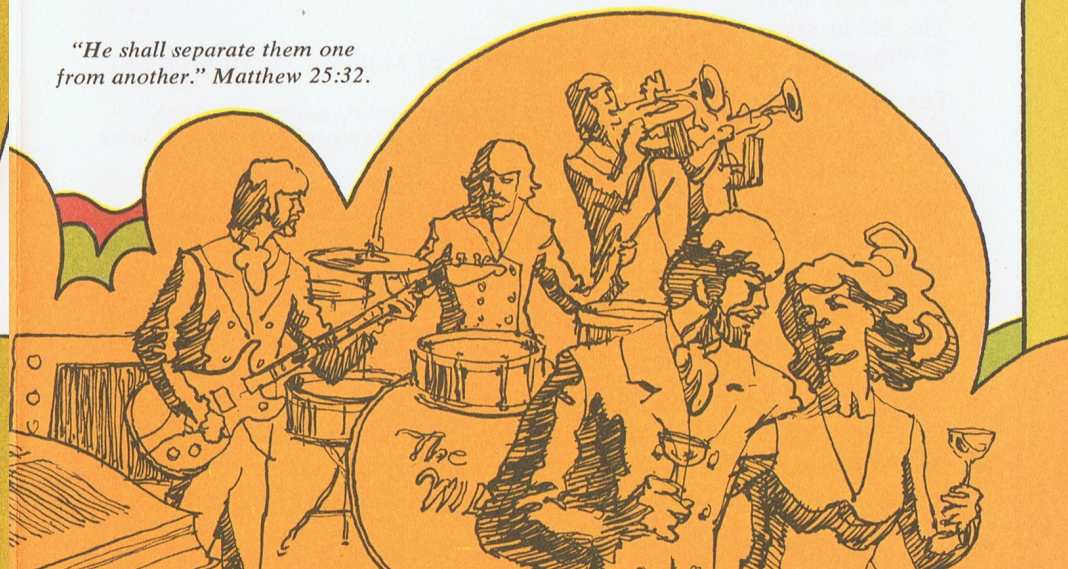


As you have found in Lessons 1 and 2, the course of history lies in the hands of God, not man. It is clear that the affairs of men are converging to a point. History faces a climax. Ambitious men would use the chaos we see on every hand to further their own plans, but they will not succeed. In the deep recesses of the universe God's great prophetic clock shows minutes to midnight, the beginning of a new era. All over the world men are accepting Christ's invitation to join with Him in battle. The outcome involves much more than the planet earth.

In recent years scientists have publicly wondered about the possibility of life on other worlds. Almost casually the Bible speaks of such life. In Hebrews 1:1, 2 we discover that God through Christ "made the worlds." Notice that it is plural—"worlds." And Ephesians 3:14, 15 says, "For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named." Nehemiah reveals the relationship that exists in the heavenly "family." "Thou, even thou, art Lord alone; thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host; . . . and *the host of heaven worshippeth thee.*" Nehemiah 9:6.

We become members of the family of the universe when we accept Christ. "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." "And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ." Romans 8:14, 17. Through the vastness of space the inhabitants of countless worlds, members of our family, have watched the

"He shall separate them one from another." Matthew 25:32.



experience of sin. They saw Satan cast out of heaven, watched in amazement the fall of man in Eden, observed the ebb and flow of centuries until Christ's first coming, and then gazed spellbound at the demonstration of love He presented on Calvary—love that expressed a power far beyond the capability of created beings to understand, love that draws the mind to God and binds us together, God and man in Christ. Our family is observing now the final conflict on earth, seeing the fulfillment of the councils of God in the affairs of men, watching in horror as men under Satan's power explore the depths of inhumanity. They are witnessing the preparations made for the day of liberation as the armada of heaven prepares for Christ's return to earth.

THE BIBLE SAYS

1. What does Paul call the second coming of Christ? Titus 2:13 (NT 189).

The Bible says: _____.

2. What promise did Christ make concerning His return? John 14:1-3 (NT 97).

The Bible says: "And if I go and prepare a place for you, _____."

3. When people talk about the second coming as being a secret or invisible event, what should we do? Matthew 24:23-26 (NT 25, 26).

The Bible says: _____.

4. To what did Jesus compare the glory of His coming? Matthew 24:27 (NT 26).

The Bible says: _____.

5. What will "all the tribes of the earth" see? Matthew 24:30 (NT 26).

The Bible says: _____.

6. According to the Book of Revelation, how many will observe Christ return? Revelation 1:7 (NT 212).

The Bible says: _____.

7. What did the angelic messengers say to the disciples about the return of Christ? Acts 1:9-11 (NT 105).

The Bible says: "This _____ which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come _____."

Note: A careful study of the texts used in questions 3 to 7 shows beyond doubt that Jesus said that every man alive will witness His return to earth. Far from being a secret spiriting away of the saved, Jesus

teaches us that His return will end the affairs of men and completely alter the course of history.

8. Who will accompany our Lord at His coming? Matthew 25:31 (NT 27).

The Bible says: _____.

9. What is the purpose of His return to this earth? Matthew 16:27 (NT 18).

The Bible says: _____.

10. What is the first event to take place at the second coming of Jesus? 1 Thessalonians 4:16 (NT 181).

The Bible says: _____.

11. What will the angels do as Christ appears in glory? Matthew 24:30, 31 (NT 26).

The Bible says: _____.

12. What will happen to the righteous—the true followers of Christ—who are alive then? 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17 (NT 181).

The Bible says: _____.

"This same Jesus . . . shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." Acts 1:11.

