

Adult

Sabbath School

Bible Study Guide

Jul | Aug | Sep 2024

Name

The Sanctified Life



**STUDENT'S PERSONAL
STUDY NOTES**

OVERVIEW

General Introduction for the 3rd Quarter, 2024

The Sanctified Life

‘The sanctification set forth in the Sacred Scriptures has to do with the entire being, spirit, soul, and body. Here is the true idea of entire consecration. Paul prays that the church at Thessalonica may enjoy this great blessing. “*The very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*” [1 Thessalonians 5:23]’—*The Sanctified Life*, page 7.

‘The apostle [2 Peter 1:3-11] presents before the believers the ladder of Christian progress, every step of which represents advancement in the knowledge of God, and in the climbing of which there is to be no standstill. Faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity are the rounds of the ladder. We are saved by climbing round after round, mounting step after step, to the height of Christ’s ideal for us. Thus He is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption.’ —*Acts of the Apostles*, page 530.

‘The character of Christianity is decidedly practical. Self and selfish ambition has no place in the mind of him who is daily converted to God. Whatever his hereditary or cultivated tendencies may be, the Holy Spirit’s moulding power on his mind and character leads him into more and still more decided co-operation with the upbuilding of the instrumentalities God has established. Never will he take the side of the power of darkness by striving to weaken and discourage, by seeking to leaven minds with suspicion, distrust, and jealousy. Those who will stand firm as a rock to principle will not become corrupted with the leaven of deception and disaffection.

‘The will of man is safe only when united with the will of God. When merged into the will of God it is a will joined to conscience, rightly exercised in advancing the honour and glory of God. The Lord has purchased the will, the affections, the mind, the soul, and the strength. Thus He has taken the whole man. Under the supervision of the divine power the will is to be cultivated to become strong, prompt, firm. It is not to fail nor become discouraged.

‘God’s word sets forth the will that is to be carried into the recesses of the soul. If the human agent consents, God can and will so identify His will with all our thoughts and aims, so blend our hearts and minds into conformity to His word, that when obeying His will we are only carrying out the impulses of our minds. All such will not possess an unsanctified, selfish disposition, ready to carry out their own wills, but will have a jealous, earnest, determined zeal for the glory of God. They will not want to do anything in their own strength, and will guard strictly against the danger of promoting self.

‘All who would perfect a Christian character must wear the yoke of Christ. If they would sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus, they must learn of Him while on this earth.’ —*Bible Echo*, July 20, 1896.

NOTATIONS

Please Note:

In addition to the writings of Ellen White, the works of a number of other authors have been used in the notes for some of these lessons. While these notes were chosen by the compiler of these lessons, and therefore reflect his own views, they should be seen as providing topics for discussion and further study, rather than authoritative.

This year's Devotional:

“Last Days Events” by E.G. White

Heaven's Hotline:

The daily prayer, Heaven's Hotline, at the end of each lesson, is purely optional to complete and is intended to aid one in their prayer life with The LORD, along with the application of the lesson materials into one's daily life.

It is encouraged that you ponder the lesson during, as well as on completion, and while you wait upon The LORD, compose a small prayer request.

It is not essential that one reads this prayer out loud to the class, yet it is encouraged that one do so in a small prayer group.

It is vital that we keep our prayer life in the foreground, as this is the primary connection that we have with The LORD and must be kept open and active at all times.

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LESSON 1

“HE IS NOT ASHAMED TO CALL THEM BRETHREN”

June 29 — July 5

MEMORY VERSE : “For both He that sanctifies and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause He is not ashamed to call them brethren.” [Hebrews 2:11]

STUDY HELP : ✓ The Great Controversy, pages 465-472

SCRIPTURE : 2 Peter 1:2-12

LESSON AIM : To study what the Bible teaches about the importance of sanctification.

INTRODUCTION : In the beginning, man was created in the image of God. He was in perfect harmony with the nature and the law of God; the principles of righteousness were written upon his heart. But sin alienated him from his Maker. He no longer reflected the divine image. His heart was at war with the principles of God’s law. “*The carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.*” [Romans 8:7] But “*God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son,*” [John 3:16] that man might be reconciled to God. Through the merits of Christ he can be restored to harmony with his Maker. His heart must be renewed by divine grace; he must have a new life from above. This change is the new birth, without which, says Jesus, “*he cannot see the kingdom of God.*” [John 3:3]—*The Great Controversy*, page 467.

Sabbath – June 29th

1. What is God’s will concerning the character and conduct of His people?

➤ 1 Thessalonians 4:3-4 —

NOTE : ‘The sanctification of the church is God’s object in all His dealings with His people. He has chosen them from eternity, that they might be holy. He gave His Son to die for them, that they might be sanctified through obedience to the truth, divested of all the littleness of self. From them He requires a personal work, a personal surrender. God can be honoured by those who profess to believe in Him, only as they are conformed to His image and controlled by His Spirit. Then, as witnesses for the Saviour, they may make known what divine grace has done for them.’—*Acts of the Apostles*, page 559.

2. Heaven’s Hotline

➤

The Great Controversy**Chapter 27, pp. 465-472****“Modern Revivals”**

In the truths of his Word, God has given to men a revelation of himself; and to all who accept them they are a shield against the deceptions of Satan. It is a neglect of these truths that has opened the door to the evils which are now becoming so widespread in the religious world. The nature and the importance of the law of God have been, to a great extent, lost sight of. A wrong conception of the character, the perpetuity, and obligation of the divine law has led to errors in relation to conversion and sanctification, and has resulted in lowering the standard of piety in the church. Here is to be found the secret of the lack of the Spirit and power of God in the revivals of our time. {GC88 465.1}

There are, in the various denominations, men eminent for their piety, by whom this fact is acknowledged and deplored. Prof. Edward Park, in setting forth the current religious perils, ably says: “One source of danger is the neglect of the pulpit to enforce the divine law. In former days the pulpit was an echo of the voice of conscience. . . . Our most illustrious preachers gave a wonderful majesty to their discourses by following the example of the Master, and giving prominence to the law, its precepts, and its threatenings. They repeated the two great maxims, that the law is a transcript of the divine perfections, and that a man who does not love the law does not love the gospel; for the law, as well as the gospel, is a mirror reflecting the true character of God. This peril leads to another, that of underrating the evil of sin, the extent of it, the demerit of it. In proportion to the rightfulness of the commandment is the wrongfulness of disobeying it.” {GC88 465.2}

“Affiliated to the dangers already named is the danger of underestimating the justice of God. The tendency of the modern pulpit is to strain out the divine justice from the divine benevolence, to sink benevolence into a sentiment rather than exalt it into a principle. The new theological prism puts asunder what God has joined together. Is the divine law a good or an evil? It is a good. Then justice is good; for it is a disposition to execute the law. From the habit of underrating the divine law and justice, the extent and demerit of human disobedience, men easily slide into the habit of underestimating the grace which has provided an atonement for sin.” Thus the gospel loses its value and importance in the minds of men, and soon they are ready to practically cast aside the Bible itself. {GC88 465.3}

Many religious teachers assert that Christ by his death abolished the law, and men are henceforth free from its requirements. There are some who represent it as a grievous yoke, and in contrast to the bondage of the law, they present the liberty to be enjoyed under the gospel. {GC88 466.1}

But not so did prophets and apostles regard the holy law of God. Said David, “I will walk at liberty; for I seek thy precepts.” [Psalm 119:45.] The apostle James, who wrote after the death of Christ, refers to the Decalogue as the “royal law,” and the “perfect law of liberty.” [James 2:8; 1:25.] And the Revelator, half a century after the crucifixion, pronounces a blessing upon them “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.] {GC88 466.2}

The claim that Christ by his death abolished his Father's law, is without foundation. Had it been possible for the law to be changed or set aside, then Christ need not have died to save man from the penalty of sin. The death of Christ, so far from abolishing the law, proves that it is immutable. The Son of God came to “magnify the law, and make it honourable.” [Isaiah 42:21.] He said, “Think not that I am come to destroy the law;” “till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in nowise pass from the law.” [Matthew 5:17, 18.] And concerning himself he declares, “I delight to do thy will, O my God; yea, thy law is within my heart.” [Psalm 40:8.] {GC88 466.3}

The law of God, from its very nature, is unchangeable. It is a revelation of the will and the character of its Author. God is love, and his law is love. Its two great principles are love to God and man. “Love is the fulfilling of the law.” [Romans 13:10.] The character of God is righteousness and truth; such is the nature of his law. Says the psalmist, “Thy law is the truth;” “all thy commandments are righteousness.” [Psalm 119:142, 172.] And the apostle

Paul declares, "The law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good." [Romans 7:12.] Such a law, being an expression of the mind and will of God, must be as enduring as its Author. {GC88 466.4}

It is the work of conversion and sanctification to reconcile men to God, by bringing them into accord with the principles of his law. In the beginning, man was created in the image of God. He was in perfect harmony with the nature and the law of God; the principles of righteousness were written upon his heart. But sin alienated him from his Maker. He no longer reflected the divine image. His heart was at war with the principles of God's law. "The carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be." [Romans 8:7.] But "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son," that man might be reconciled to God. Through the merits of Christ he can be restored to harmony with his Maker. His heart must be renewed by divine grace, he must have a new life from above. This change is the new birth, without which, says Jesus, "he cannot see the kingdom of God." {GC88 467.1}

The first step in reconciliation to God, is the conviction of sin. "Sin is the transgression of the law." "By the law is the knowledge of sin." [1 John 3:4; Romans 3:20.] In order to see his guilt, the sinner must test his character by God's great standard of righteousness. It is a mirror which shows the perfection of a righteous character, and enables him to discern the defects in his own. {GC88 467.2}

The law reveals to man his sins, but it provides no remedy. While it promises life to the obedient, it declares that death is the portion of the transgressor. The gospel of Christ alone can free him from the condemnation or the defilement of sin. He must exercise repentance toward God, whose law has been transgressed, and faith in Christ, his atoning sacrifice. Thus he obtains "remission of sins that are past," and becomes a partaker of the divine nature. He is a child of God, having received the spirit of adoption, whereby he cries, "Abba, Father!" {GC88 467.3}

Is he now free to transgress God's law? Says Paul: "Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid; yea, we establish the law." "How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?" And John declares, "This is the love of God, that we keep his commandments; and his commandments are not grievous." [Romans 3:31; 6:2; 1 John 5:3.] In the new birth the heart is brought into harmony with God, as it is brought into accord with his law. When this mighty change has taken place in the sinner, he has passed from death unto life, from sin unto holiness, from transgression and rebellion to obedience and loyalty. The old life of alienation from God has ended; the new life of reconciliation, of faith and love, has begun. Then "the righteousness of the law" will "be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." [Romans 8:4.] And the language of the soul will be, "O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day." [Psalm 119:97.] {GC88 468.1}

"The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul." [Psalm 19:7.] Without the law, men have no just conception of the purity and holiness of God, or of their own guilt and uncleanness. They have no true conviction of sin, and feel no need of repentance. Not seeing their lost condition as violators of God's law, they do not realize their need of the atoning blood of Christ. The hope of salvation is accepted without a radical change of heart or reformation of life. Thus superficial conversions abound, and multitudes are joined to the church who have never been united to Christ. {GC88 468.2}

Erroneous theories of sanctification, also, springing from neglect or rejection of the divine law, have a prominent place in the religious movements of the day. These theories are both false in doctrine, and dangerous in practical results; and the fact that they are so generally finding favour renders it doubly essential that all have a clear understanding of what the Scriptures teach upon this point. {GC88 468.3}

True sanctification is a Bible doctrine. The apostle Paul, in his letter to the Thessalonian church, declares, "This is the will of God, even your sanctification." And he prays, "The very God of peace sanctify you wholly." [1 Thessalonians 4:3; 5:23.] The Bible clearly teaches what sanctification is, and how it is to be attained. The Saviour prayed for his disciples, "Sanctify them through thy truth; thy Word is truth." [John 17:17, 19.] And Paul teaches that believers are to be "sanctified by the Holy Ghost." [Romans 15:16.] What is the work of the Holy Spirit? Jesus told his disciples, "When he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth." [John 16:13.] And the psalmist says, "Thy law is the truth." By the Word and the Spirit of God are opened to men the great principles of righteousness embodied in his law. And since the law of God is "holy, and just, and good," a transcript of the divine perfection, it follows that a character formed by obedience to that law will be holy. Christ is a perfect example of such a character. He says, "I have kept my Father's commandments." "I do always those things that please him." [John 15:10; 8:29.] The followers of Christ are to become like him,—by the grace of God, to form characters in harmony with the principles of his holy law. This is Bible sanctification. {GC88 469.1}

This work can be accomplished only through faith in Christ, by the power of the indwelling Spirit of God. Paul

admonishes believers, "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which works in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure." [Philippians 2:12, 13.] The Christian will feel the promptings of sin, but he will maintain a constant warfare against it. Here is where Christ's help is needed. Human weakness becomes united to divine strength, and faith exclaims, "Thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." [1 Corinthians 15:57.] {GC88 469.2}

The Scriptures plainly show that the work of sanctification is progressive. When in conversion the sinner finds peace with God through the blood of the atonement, the Christian life has but just begun. Now he is to "go on unto perfection;" to grow up "unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." Says the apostle Paul: "This one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." [Philippians 3:13, 14.] And Peter sets before us the steps by which Bible sanctification is to be attained: "Giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. . . . If ye do these things, ye shall never fall." [2 Peter 1:5-10.] {GC88 470.1}

Those who experience the sanctification of the Bible will manifest a spirit of humility. Like Moses, they have had a view of the awful majesty of holiness, and they see their own unworthiness, in contrast with the purity and exalted perfection of the Infinite One. {GC88 470.2}

The prophet Daniel was an example of true sanctification. His long life was filled up with noble service for his Master. He was a man "greatly beloved" [Daniel 10:11.] of Heaven. Yet instead of claiming to be pure and holy, this honoured prophet identified himself with the really sinful of Israel, as he pleaded before God in behalf of his people: "We do not present our supplications before thee for our righteousnesses, but for thy great mercies." "We have sinned, we have done wickedly." He declares, "I was speaking, and praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people." And when at a later time the Son of God appeared, to give him instruction, he declares, "My comeliness was turned in me into corruption, and I retained no strength." [Daniel 9:18, 15, 20; 10:8.] {GC88 470.3}

When Job heard the voice of the Lord out of the whirlwind, he exclaimed, "I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes." [Job 42:6.] It was when Isaiah saw the glory of the Lord, and heard the cherubim crying, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts," that he cried out, "Woe is me! for I am undone." [Isaiah 6:3, 5.] Paul, after he was caught up into the third heaven, and heard things which it was not possible for a man to utter, speaks of himself as "less than the least of all saints." [2 Corinthians 12:2-4 (MARGIN); Ephesians 3:8.] It was the beloved John, that leaned on Jesus' breast, and beheld his glory, who fell as one dead before the feet of the angel. [Revelation 22:8.] {GC88 471.1}

There can be no self-exaltation, no boastful claim to freedom from sin, on the part of those who walk in the shadow of Calvary's cross. They feel that it was their sin which caused the agony that broke the heart of the Son of God, and this thought will lead them to self-abasement. Those who live nearest to Jesus discern most clearly the frailty and sinfulness of humanity, and their only hope is in the merit of a crucified and risen Saviour. {GC88 471.2}

The sanctification now gaining prominence in the religious world, carries with it a spirit of self-exaltation, and a disregard for the law of God, that mark it as foreign to the religion of the Bible. Its advocates teach that sanctification is an instantaneous work, by which, through faith alone, they attain to perfect holiness. "Only believe," say they, "and the blessing is yours." No further effort on the part of the receiver is supposed to be required. At the same time they deny the authority of the law of God, urging that they are released from obligation to keep the commandments. But is it possible for men to be holy, in accord with the will and character of God, without coming into harmony with the principles which are an expression of his nature and will, and which show what is well-pleasing to him? {GC88 471.3}

The desire for an easy religion, that requires no striving, no self-denial, no divorce from the follies of the world, has made the doctrine of faith, and faith only, a popular doctrine; but what saith the Word of God? Says the apostle James: "What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? . . . Wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? See thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? . . . Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only." [James 2:14-24.] {GC88 472.1}

The testimony of the Word of God is against this ensnaring doctrine of faith without works. It is not faith that claims the favour of Heaven without complying with the conditions upon which mercy is to be granted. It is presumption; for genuine faith has its foundation in the promises and provisions of the Scriptures. {GC88 472.2}

Let none deceive themselves with the belief that they can become holy while wilfully violating one of God's requirements. The commission of a known sin silences the witnessing voice of the Spirit, and separates the soul from God. "Sin is the transgression of the law." And "whosoever sins [transgresses the law] hath not seen him, neither known him." [1 John 3:6.] Though John in his epistles dwells so fully upon love, yet he does not hesitate to reveal the true character of that class who claim to be sanctified while living in transgression of the law of God. "He that saith, I know Him, and keeps not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keeps his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected." [1 John 2:4, 5.] Here is the test of every man's profession. We cannot accord holiness to any man without bringing him to the measurement of God's only standard of holiness in Heaven and in earth. If men feel no weight of the moral law, if they belittle and make light of God's precepts, if they break one of the least of these commandments, and teach men so, they shall be of no esteem in the sight of Heaven, and we may know that their claims are without foundation. {GC88 472.3}

Last Day Events***Sabbath, June 29th, 2024*****Last Day Events, Chapter 6, pp. 191****“The Little Time of Trouble”****--****“Satan’s Last Day Deceptions”****June 29th****The Deception Is Almost Universal**

And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

Revelation 20:4

There is now need of earnest, working men and women who will seek for the salvation of souls, for Satan as a powerful general has taken the field, and in this last remnant of time he is working through all conceivable methods to close the door against light that God would have come to His people. He is sweeping the whole world into his ranks, and the few who are faithful to God's requirements are the only ones who can ever withstand him, and even these he is trying to overcome.—*Selected Messages, Book 3, p. 389 (1889).*

The forms of the dead will appear, through the cunning device of Satan, and many will link up with the one who loves and makes a lie. I warn our people that right among us some will turn away from the faith and give heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils, and by them the truth will be evil spoken of.

A marvellous work shall take place. Ministers, lawyers, doctors, who have permitted these falsehoods to overmaster their spirit of discernment, will be themselves deceivers, united with the deceived. A spiritual drunkenness will take possession of them.—*The Upward Look, p. 317 (1905).*

Daily Scripture**Sabbath, June 29th, 2024****Ruth Chapter 4****Boaz Redeems Ruth**

- Rth 4:1 Then went Boaz up to the gate, and sat him down there: and, behold, the kinsman of whom Boaz spake came by; unto whom he said, Ho, such a one! turn aside, sit down here. And he turned aside, and sat down.
- Rth 4:2 And he took ten men of the elders of the city, and said, Sit ye down here. And they sat down.
- Rth 4:3 And he said unto the kinsman, Naomi, that is come again out of the country of Moab, sell a parcel of land, which *was* our brother Elimelech's:
- Rth 4:4 And I thought to advertise thee, saying, Buy *it* before the inhabitants, and before the elders of my people. If thou wilt redeem *it*, redeem *it*: but if thou wilt not redeem *it*, *then* tell me, that I may know: for *there is* none to redeem *it* beside thee; and I *am* after thee. And he said, I will redeem *it*.
- Rth 4:5 Then said Boaz, What day thou buy the field of the hand of Naomi, thou must buy *it* also of Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of the dead, to raise up the name of the dead upon his inheritance.
- Rth 4:6 And the kinsman said, I cannot redeem *it* for myself, lest I mar mine own inheritance: redeem thou my right to thyself; for I cannot redeem *it*.
- Rth 4:7 Now this *was the manner* in former time in Israel concerning redeeming and concerning changing, for to confirm all things; a man plucked off his shoe, and gave *it* to his neighbour: and this *was* a testimony in Israel.
- Rth 4:8 Therefore the kinsman said unto Boaz, Buy *it* for thee. So he drew off his shoe.
- Rth 4:9 And Boaz said unto the elders, and *unto* all the people, Ye *are* witnesses this day, that I have bought all that *was* Elimelech's, and all that *was* Chilion's and Mahlon's, of the hand of Naomi.
- Rth 4:10 Moreover Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of Mahlon, have I purchased to be my wife, to raise up the name of the dead upon his inheritance, that the name of the dead be not cut off from among his brethren, and from the gate of his place: ye *are* witnesses this day.
- Rth 4:11 And all the people that *were* in the gate, and the elders, said, *We are* witnesses. The LORD make the woman that is come into thine house like Rachel and like Leah, which two did build the house of Israel: and do thou worthily in Ephratah, and be famous in Bethlehem:
- Rth 4:12 And let thy house be like the house of Pharez, whom Tamar bare unto Judah, of the seed which the LORD shall give thee of this young woman.

Ruth and Boaz Marry

- Rth 4:13 So Boaz took Ruth, and she was his wife: and when he went in unto her, the LORD gave her conception, and she bare a son.
- Rth 4:14 And the women said unto Naomi, Blessed *be* the LORD, which hath not left thee this day without a kinsman, that his name may be famous in Israel.
- Rth 4:15 And he shall be unto thee a restorer of *thy* life, and a nourisher of thine old age: for thy daughter in law, which loves thee, which is better to thee than seven sons, hath born him.
- Rth 4:16 And Naomi took the child, and laid it in her bosom, and became nurse unto it.
- Rth 4:17 And the women her neighbours gave it a name, saying, There is a son born to Naomi; and they called his name Obed: he *is* the father of Jesse, the father of David.

The Genealogy of David

- Rth 4:18 Now these *are* the generations of Pharez: Pharez begat Hezron,
- Rth 4:19 And Hezron begat Ram, and Ram begat Amminadab,
- Rth 4:20 And Amminadab begat Nahshon, and Nahshon begat Salmon,
- Rth 4:21 And Salmon begat Boaz, and Boaz begat Obed,
- Rth 4:22 And Obed begat Jesse, and Jesse begat David.

*Children's Mission Story**Sabbath, June 29th, 2024*

Shortly after 9-year-old Deymily [Dem-ily] moved to a new town in Costa Rica, a neighbour invited her to go to church.

“Come with us on Saturday,” Uncle Porfirio said. [POR-fear-ee-o]

Deymily was pleased with the invitation. She didn’t have any friends in the new town, and she didn’t have anything to do on Saturdays.

“I’d like that,” she said.

She asked Mother for permission to go to church. Mother had never heard of a church that worshipped on Saturdays.

“What kind of church is that?” she asked.

But Father knew all about worshipping on Saturdays.

“I grew up in the Seventh-day Adventist Church,” he said. “It’s a good church.”

So, Mother gave permission for Deymily to go to church on Saturday.

Uncle Porfirio arrived at Deymily’s house at 8:35 a.m. on Sabbath and took her on his motorcycle to church. His wife, Auntie Sara, followed them on foot. It wasn’t a very long walk from their house to the Adventist church.

It felt strange to Deymily to go to church on Saturday. In her old town, she had only gone to church on Sundays. But she liked the music and the sermon at the Adventist church.

She returned to church the next Sabbath and the next.

Then she started going to prayer meetings at the church on Wednesday evenings. As she learned the Bible, a love for Jesus grew in her heart.

Deymily was so happy! But she longed for something more. She wished Mother was going to church, too.

One Sabbath, she invited Mother to go to church with her.

But Mother didn't want to go. "I'm not ready to go to church now," she said. "Maybe later."

"Come," Deymily said. "Come and see me. I'm going to sing the special music at church today."

Mother went to church with her.

The next Sabbath, Mother didn't want to go again. But Deymily was leading the song service, so Mother went. After that, Mother went with Deymily to church every Sabbath.

Deymily was so happy! But she longed for something more. She was preparing for baptism, and she wanted Mother to also be baptized.

"You have to get baptized at the church," she said.

Deymily made her own set of Bible studies, and she used them to teach Mother about God.

Before long, Mother got baptized and joined the Adventist Church. Deymily was also baptized.

But that's not the end of the story.

Deymily invited her friends to come to church. She studied the Bible with them, using the Bible studies that she had made for Mother. Five friends have given their hearts to Jesus in baptism: three classmates, a 12-year-old aunt, and a 12-year-old cousin.

Today, Deymily may be the happiest girl in Costa Rica! But she still longs for something more.

"Pray for my father and the rest of my family to accept Jesus and join the church," she said.

Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help open a center of influence that will teach at-risk children about Jesus in Costa Rica. Thank you for planning a generous offering on September 28.

By Andrew McChesney

Sunday – June 30th

1. How does Paul describe the various aspects of the salvation process?

➤ **1 Corinthians 6:11** —

NOTE : ‘We are to have free access to the atoning blood of Christ. This we must regard as the most precious privilege, the greatest blessing, ever granted to sinful man. And how little is made of this great gift! How deep, how wide and continuous is this stream. To every soul thirsting after holiness there is repose, there is rest, there is the quickening influence of the Holy Spirit, and then the holy, happy, peaceful walk and precious communion with Christ. Then, O then, can we intelligently say with John, “Behold the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world.” Talk it, pray it. Let it be the theme of sacred song, to be washed, to be cleansed; the believing soul claims that love, and by its virtues stands before the throne of God pardoned, justified, sanctified. Its cleansing virtue gives strength and vigour to faith, power to prayer, and happiness in cheerful obedience. — *Sons & Daughters of God*, page 224.

2. By what means did Christ pray that His followers should be sanctified?

➤ **John 17:17** —

NOTE : ‘Nothing can elevate man, nothing can make him pure, and keep him pure, but believing in and practising the truth. He must eat the flesh and drink the blood of the Son of God. This is the lesson all should learn. They should see that to be sanctified means more than to have a theoretical knowledge of the truth. They must have living faith. They must do more than denounce wrongs in others; they must fight it in themselves. They must be whole-souled Christians, possessing the earnestness and living energy derived from Christ.’ — *Spalding & Magan Collection*, page 54.

3. Heaven’s Hotline

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Last Day Events

Sunday, June 30th, 2024

Last Day Events, Chapter 6, pp. 192

“The Little Time of Trouble”

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“Satan’s Last Day Deceptions”

June 30th

Church Membership No Guarantee of Salvation

And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats:

Matthew 25:32

It is a solemn statement that I make to the church, that not one in twenty whose names are registered upon the church books are prepared to close their earthly history, and would be as verily without God and without hope in the world as the common sinner.—*Christian Service p. 41 (1893).*

Those who have had opportunities to hear and receive of the truth and who have united with the Seventh-day Adventist church, calling themselves the commandment-keeping people of God, and yet possess no more vitality and consecration to God than do the nominal churches, will receive the plagues of God just as verily as the churches who oppose the law of God. —*Manuscript Release 19, p. 176 (1898).*

Daily Scripture**Sunday, June 30th, 2024****1st Samuel Chapter 1****The Birth of Samuel**

- 1Sa 1:1 Now there was a certain man of Ramathaimzophim, of mount Ephraim, and his name *was* Elkanah, the son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephrathite:
- 1Sa 1:2 And he had two wives; the name of the one *was* Hannah, and the name of the other Peninnah: and Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children.
- 1Sa 1:3 And this man went up out of his city yearly to worship and to sacrifice unto the LORD of hosts in Shiloh. And the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, the priests of the LORD, *were* there.
- 1Sa 1:4 And when the time was that Elkanah offered, he gave to Peninnah his wife, and to all her sons and her daughters, portions:
- 1Sa 1:5 But unto Hannah he gave a worthy portion; for he loved Hannah: but the LORD had shut up her womb.
- 1Sa 1:6 And her adversary also provoked her sore, for to make her fret, because the LORD had shut up her womb.
- 1Sa 1:7 And *as* he did so year by year, when she went up to the house of the LORD, so she provoked her; therefore she wept, and did not eat.
- 1Sa 1:8 Then said Elkanah her husband to her, Hannah, why are you weeping? and why eat thou not? and why is thy heart grieved? *am* not I better to thee than ten sons?
- 1Sa 1:9 So Hannah rose up after they had eaten in Shiloh, and after they had drunk. Now Eli the priest sat upon a seat by a post of the temple of the LORD.
- 1Sa 1:10 And she *was* in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the LORD, and wept sore.
- 1Sa 1:11 And she vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head.
- 1Sa 1:12 And it came to pass, as she continued praying before the LORD, that Eli marked her mouth.
- 1Sa 1:13 Now Hannah, she spake in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard: therefore Eli thought she had been drunken.
- 1Sa 1:14 And Eli said unto her, How long wilt thou be drunken? put away thy wine from thee.
- 1Sa 1:15 And Hannah answered and said, No, my lord, I *am* a woman of a sorrowful spirit: I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but have poured out my soul before the LORD.
- 1Sa 1:16 Count not thine handmaid for a daughter of Belial: for out of the abundance of my complaint and grief have I spoken hitherto.
- 1Sa 1:17 Then Eli answered and said, Go in peace: and the God of Israel grant *thee* thy petition that thou hast asked of him.
- 1Sa 1:18 And she said, Let thine handmaid find grace in thy sight. So the woman went her way, and did eat, and her countenance was no more *sad*.
- 1Sa 1:19 And they rose up in the morning early, and worshipped before the LORD, and returned, and came to their house to Ramah: and Elkanah knew Hannah his wife; and the LORD remembered her.
- 1Sa 1:20 Wherefore it came to pass, when the time was come about after Hannah had conceived, that she bare a son, and called his name Samuel, *saying*, Because I have asked him of the LORD.

Samuel Given to the Lord

- 1Sa 1:21 And the man Elkanah, and all his house, went up to offer unto the LORD the yearly sacrifice, and his vow.
- 1Sa 1:22 But Hannah went not up; for she said unto her husband, *I will not go up* until the child be weaned, and *then* I will bring him, that he may appear before the LORD, and there abide for ever.

- 1Sa 1:23 And Elkanah her husband said unto her, Do what seems thee good; tarry until thou have weaned him; only the LORD establish his word. So the woman abode, and gave her son suck until she weaned him.
- 1Sa 1:24 And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, with three bullocks, and one ephah of flour, and a bottle of wine, and brought him unto the house of the LORD in Shiloh: and the child *was* young.
- 1Sa 1:25 And they slew a bullock, and brought the child to Eli.
- 1Sa 1:26 And she said, Oh my lord, *as* thy soul lives, my lord, I *am* the woman that stood by thee here, praying unto the LORD.
- 1Sa 1:27 For this child I prayed; and the LORD hath given me my petition which I asked of him:
- 1Sa 1:28 Therefore also I have lent him to the LORD; as long as he lives he shall be lent to the LORD. And he worshipped the LORD there.

*Monday – July 1st***1. How will the truth sanctify us?**

➤ **2 Thessalonians 2:13** —

NOTE : ‘God expects those who bear the name of Christ to represent Him. Their thoughts are to be pure, their words noble and uplifting. The religion of Christ is to be interwoven with all that they do and say. They are to be a sanctified, purified, holy people, communicating light to all with whom they come in contact. It is His purpose that by exemplifying the truth in their lives they shall be a praise in the earth. The grace of Christ is sufficient to bring this about. But let God’s people remember that only as they believe and work out the principles of the gospel can they fulfil His purpose. Only as they yield their God-given capabilities to His service will they enjoy the fullness and the power of the promise whereon the church has been called to stand.’ — *Counsels to Parents, Teachers & Students*, page 322.

‘If those who see the truth do not change in character corresponding to the sanctifying influence of the truth, they will be a savour of death unto death. They will misrepresent the truth, bring a reproach upon it, and dishonour Christ, who is truth.’ — *Counsels on Stewardship*, page 255.

2. How did Christ explain to Paul the part played by faith in sanctification?

➤ **Acts 26:18** —

NOTE : ‘Day by day, and hour by hour, there must be a vigorous process of self-denial and of sanctification going on within; and then the outward works will testify that Jesus is abiding in the heart by faith.’ — *The Faith I Live By*, page 124.

‘To abide in faith is to put aside feeling and selfish desires, to walk humbly with the Lord, to appropriate His promises, and apply them to all occasions, believing that God will work out His own plans and purposes in your heart and life by the sanctification of your character; it is to rely entirely, to trust implicitly, upon the faithfulness of God. If this course is followed, others will see the special fruits of the Spirit manifested in the life and character.’ — *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, page 341.

3. Heaven’s Hotline

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Last Day Events***Monday, July 1st, 2024*****Last Day Events, Chapter 7, pp. 193****“The Shaking”**

“The Latter Rain”**July 1st****The Chaff Separated From the Wheat**

Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

Matthew 3:12

Divisions will come in the church. Two parties will be developed. The wheat and tares grow up together for the harvest.—*Selected Messages, vol. 2, p. 114 (1896).*

There will be a shaking of the sieve. The chaff must in time be separated from the wheat. Because iniquity abounds, the love of many waxes cold. It is the very time when the genuine will be the strongest.—*Letter 46, 1887.*

The history of the rebellion of Dathan and Abiram is being repeated, and will be repeated till the close of time. Who will be on the Lord's side? Who will be deceived, and in their turn become deceivers?—*Letter 15, 1892.*

The Lord is soon to come. There must be a refining, winnowing process in every church, for there are among us wicked men who do not love the truth or honour God.—*Review and Herald, March 19, 1895.*

We are in the shaking time, the time when everything that can be shaken will be shaken. The Lord will not excuse those who know the truth if they do not in word and deed obey His commands.—*Testimonies for the Church, vol. 6, p. 332 (1900).*

Daily Scripture**Monday, July 1st, 2024****1st Samuel Chapter 2****Hannah's Prayer**

- 1Sa 2:1 And Hannah prayed, and said, My heart rejoices in the LORD, mine horn is exalted in the LORD: my mouth is enlarged over mine enemies; because I rejoice in thy salvation.
- 1Sa 2:2 *There is* none holy as the LORD: for *there is* none beside thee: neither *is there* any rock like our God.
- 1Sa 2:3 Talk no more so exceeding proudly; let *not* arrogancy come out of your mouth: for the LORD *is* a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed.
- 1Sa 2:4 The bows of the mighty men *are* broken, and they that stumbled are girded with strength.
- 1Sa 2:5 *They that were* full have hired out themselves for bread; and *they that were* hungry ceased: so that the barren hath born seven; and she that hath many children is waxed feeble.
- 1Sa 2:6 The LORD kills, and makes alive: he brings down to the grave, and brings up.
- 1Sa 2:7 The LORD makes poor, and makes rich: he brings low, and lifts up.
- 1Sa 2:8 He raises up the poor out of the dust, *and* lifts up the beggar from the dunghill, to set *them* among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory: for the pillars of the earth *are* the LORD'S, and he hath set the world upon them.
- 1Sa 2:9 He will keep the feet of his saints, and the wicked shall be silent in darkness; for by strength shall no man prevail.
- 1Sa 2:10 The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken to pieces; out of heaven shall he thunder upon them: the LORD shall judge the ends of the earth; and he shall give strength unto his king, and exalt the horn of his anointed.
- 1Sa 2:11 And Elkanah went to Ramah to his house. And the child did minister unto the LORD before Eli the priest.

Eli's Worthless Sons

- 1Sa 2:12 Now the sons of Eli *were* sons of Belial; they knew not the LORD.
- 1Sa 2:13 And the priests' custom with the people *was, that*, when any man offered sacrifice, the priest's servant came, while the flesh was in seething, with a fleshhook of three teeth in his hand;
- 1Sa 2:14 And he struck *it* into the pan, or kettle, or caldron, or pot; all that the fleshhook brought up the priest took for himself. So they did in Shiloh unto all the Israelites that came thither.
- 1Sa 2:15 Also before they burnt the fat, the priest's servant came, and said to the man that sacrificed, Give flesh to roast for the priest; for he will not have sodden flesh of thee, but raw.
- 1Sa 2:16 And *if* any man said unto him, Let them not fail to burn the fat presently, and *then* take *as much* as thy soul desires; then he would answer him, *Nay*; but thou shalt give *it me* now: and if not, I will take *it* by force.
- 1Sa 2:17 Wherefore the sin of the young men was very great before the LORD: for men abhorred the offering of the LORD.
- 1Sa 2:18 But Samuel ministered before the LORD, *being* a child, girded with a linen ephod.
- 1Sa 2:19 Moreover his mother made him a little coat, and brought *it* to him from year to year, when she came up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice.
- 1Sa 2:20 And Eli blessed Elkanah and his wife, and said, The LORD give you seed of this woman for the loan which is lent to the LORD. And they went unto their own home.
- 1Sa 2:21 And the LORD visited Hannah, so that she conceived, and bare three sons and two daughters. And the child Samuel grew before the LORD.

Eli Rebukes His Sons

- 1Sa 2:22 Now Eli was very old, and heard all that his sons did unto all Israel; and how they lay with the women that assembled *at* the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

- 1Sa 2:23 And he said unto them, Why do ye such things? for I hear of your evil dealings by all this people.
- 1Sa 2:24 Nay, my sons; for *it is* no good report that I hear: ye make the LORD'S people to transgress.
- 1Sa 2:25 If one man sin against another, the judge shall judge him: but if a man sin against the LORD, who shall entreat for him? Notwithstanding they hearkened not unto the voice of their father, because the LORD would slay them.
- 1Sa 2:26 And the child Samuel grew on, and was in favour both with the LORD, and also with men.

The Lord Rejects Eli's Household

- 1Sa 2:27 And there came a man of God unto Eli, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Did I plainly appear unto the house of thy father, when they were in Egypt in Pharaoh's house?
- 1Sa 2:28 And did I choose him out of all the tribes of Israel *to be* my priest, to offer upon mine altar, to burn incense, to wear an ephod before me? and did I give unto the house of thy father all the offerings made by fire of the children of Israel?
- 1Sa 2:29 Wherefore kick ye at my sacrifice and at mine offering, which I have commanded *in my* habitation; and honour thy sons above me, to make yourselves fat with the chiefest of all the offerings of Israel my people?
- 1Sa 2:30 Wherefore the LORD God of Israel saith, I said indeed *that* thy house, and the house of thy father, should walk before me for ever: but now the LORD saith, Be it far from me; for them that honour me I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed.
- 1Sa 2:31 Behold, the days come, that I will cut off thine arm, and the arm of thy father's house, that there shall not be an old man in thine house.
- 1Sa 2:32 And thou shalt see an enemy *in my* habitation, in all *the wealth* which *God* shall give Israel: and there shall not be an old man in thine house for ever.
- 1Sa 2:33 And the man of thine, *whom* I shall not cut off from mine altar, *shall be* to consume thine eyes, and to grieve thine heart: and all the increase of thine house shall die in the flower of their age.
- 1Sa 2:34 And this *shall be* a sign unto thee, that shall come upon thy two sons, on Hophni and Phinehas; in one day they shall die both of them.
- 1Sa 2:35 And I will raise me up a faithful priest, *that* shall do according to *that* which *is* in mine heart and in my mind: and I will build him a sure house; and he shall walk before mine anointed for ever.
- 1Sa 2:36 And it shall come to pass, *that* every one that is left in thine house shall come *and* crouch to him for a piece of silver and a morsel of bread, and shall say, Put me, I pray thee, into one of the priests' offices, that I may eat a piece of bread.

Tuesday – July 2nd

1. What did Christ explain to be the purpose of sanctification?

➤ **Acts 26:18** —

NOTE : ‘Through the sanctification of the truth man becomes a partaker of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. What may not man become through the grace given him, if he will but be a partaker of the divine nature? What examples of uprightness, of purity, of holiness would be given to our world!’ — *Review & Herald, March 1, 1887.*

‘Why is it so hard for many to walk uprightly before God? It is because they are trying to serve two masters, a thing which the Saviour declares no man can do. If they would give themselves to Jesus, He would take possession of the soul, and every wrong desire, every false ambition, every evil purpose would be brought into subjection to the will of God. This is the sanctification that Christ meant when He said, “I sanctify Myself.” This is the sanctification that He desired for His disciples when He prayed, “Sanctify them through Thy truth.” We profess to be sons and daughters of the Lord; the chosen ones of Christ, of whom He says, “I have given them Thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, ever as I am not of the world.” What right have we to let the things of the world take possession of the heart and engross our energies? What right have we to make the heart a highway for the world’s travel, or to imitate its customs and practices? We cannot serve God and mammon. We must come out from the world, and be separate. Its fashions are not to control us; its principles are not to be our principles.’ — *Signs of the Times, August 6, 1885.*

2. By whose power is the work of sanctification accomplished?

➤ **Romans 15:16** —

NOTE : Among followers of ‘Reformed Theology’, a common cliché is that ‘justification is God’s perfect work for man; sanctification is man’s imperfect work for God.’ The Bible never teaches this. ‘Having brought conviction of sin, and presented before the mind the standard of righteousness, the Holy Spirit withdraws the affections from the things of this earth and fills the soul with a desire for holiness. “He will guide you into all truth” (John 16:13), the Saviour declared. If men are willing to be moulded, there will be brought about a sanctification of the whole being. The Spirit will take the things of God and stamp them on the soul. By His power the way of life will be made so plain that none need err therein.’ — *Acts of the Apostles, page 52.*

3. Heaven’s Hotline

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Last Day Events

Tuesday, July 2nd, 2024

Last Day Events, Chapter 7, pp. 194

“The Shaking”

“The Latter Rain”

July 2nd

Persecution Cleanses the Church

Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:10

Prosperity multiplies a mass of professors. Adversity purges them out of the church.—*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 89 (1876).

The time is not far distant when the test will come to every soul. The mark of the beast will be urged upon us. Those who have step by step yielded to worldly demands and conformed to worldly customs will not find it a hard matter to yield to the powers that be, rather than subject themselves to derision, insult, threatened imprisonment, and death. The contest is between the commandments of God and the commandments of men. In this time the gold will be separated from the dross in the church.—*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 81 (1882).

In the absence of the persecution there have drifted into our ranks men who appear sound and their Christianity unquestionable, but who, if persecution should arise, would go out from us.—*Evangelism*, p. 360 (1890).

When the law of God is made void the church will be sifted by fiery trials, and a larger proportion than we now anticipate will give heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils.—*Selected Messages, Book 2*, p. 368 (1891).

*Daily Scripture**Tuesday, July 2nd, 2024***1st Samuel Chapter 3****The Lord Calls Samuel**

- 1Sa 3:1 And the child Samuel ministered unto the LORD before Eli. And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; *there was* no open vision.
- 1Sa 3:2 And it came to pass at that time, when Eli *was* laid down in his place, and his eyes began to wax dim, *that* he could not see;
- 1Sa 3:3 And ere the lamp of God went out in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God *was*, and Samuel was laid down *to sleep*;
- 1Sa 3:4 That the LORD called Samuel: and he answered, Here *am* I.
- 1Sa 3:5 And he ran unto Eli, and said, Here *am* I; for thou called me. And he said, I called not; lie down again. And he went and lay down.
- 1Sa 3:6 And the LORD called yet again, Samuel. And Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said, Here *am* I; for thou didst call me. And he answered, I called not, my son; lie down again.
- 1Sa 3:7 Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, neither was the word of the LORD yet revealed unto him.
- 1Sa 3:8 And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli, and said, Here *am* I; for thou didst call me. And Eli perceived that the LORD had called the child.
- 1Sa 3:9 Therefore Eli said unto Samuel, Go, lie down: and it shall be, if he call thee, that thou shalt say, Speak, LORD; for thy servant hears. So Samuel went and lay down in his place.
- 1Sa 3:10 And the LORD came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant hears.
- 1Sa 3:11 And the LORD said to Samuel, Behold, I will do a thing in Israel, at which both the ears of every one that hears it shall tingle.
- 1Sa 3:12 In that day I will perform against Eli all *things* which I have spoken concerning his house: when I begin, I will also make an end.
- 1Sa 3:13 For I have told him that I will judge his house for ever for the iniquity which he knows; because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not.
- 1Sa 3:14 And therefore I have sworn unto the house of Eli, that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be purged with sacrifice nor offering for ever.
- 1Sa 3:15 And Samuel lay until the morning, and opened the doors of the house of the LORD. And Samuel feared to shew Eli the vision.
- 1Sa 3:16 Then Eli called Samuel, and said, Samuel, my son. And he answered, Here *am* I.
- 1Sa 3:17 And he said, What *is* the thing that *the LORD* hath said unto thee? I pray thee hide *it* not from me: God do so to thee, and more also, if thou hide *anything* from me of all the things that he said unto thee.
- 1Sa 3:18 And Samuel told him every whit, and hid nothing from him. And he said, It *is* the LORD: let him do what seems him good.
- 1Sa 3:19 And Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him, and did let none of his words fall to the ground.
- 1Sa 3:20 And all Israel from Dan even to Beersheba knew that Samuel *was* established *to be* a prophet of the LORD.
- 1Sa 3:21 And the LORD appeared again in Shiloh: for the LORD revealed himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the word of the LORD.

Wednesday – July 3rd

1. What was the extent of the sanctification that Paul prayed for?

➤ 1 Thessalonians 5:23 —

NOTE : ‘The sanctification set forth in the Scriptures embraces the entire being, spirit, soul, and body. Christians are bidden to present their bodies, “a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God” (Romans 12:1). In order to do this, all their powers must be preserved in the best possible condition. Every practice that weakens physical or mental strength unfits man for the service of his Creator. Said Christ: “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart” (Matthew 22:37). Those who do love God with all the heart will desire to give Him the best service of their life, and they will be constantly seeking to bring every power of their being into harmony with the laws that will promote their ability to do His will. They will not, by the indulgence of appetite or passion, enfeeble or defile the offering which they present to their heavenly Father. God would have us realise that He has a right to mind, soul, body, and spirit, to all that we possess.’ — *God’s Amazing Grace*, page 245.

2. How did Paul express his confidence that the sanctification he prayed for would be accomplished?

➤ 1 Thessalonians 5:28 —

NOTE : ‘Take time to pray, and as you pray, believe that God hears you. Have faith mixed with your prayers. You may not at all times feel the immediate answer; but then it is that faith is tried. You are proved to see whether you will trust in God, whether you have living, abiding faith. “Faithful is He that calls you, who also will do it.” Walk the narrow plank of faith. Trust all on the promises of the Lord. Trust God in darkness. That is the time to have faith.’ — *Testimonies*, volume 1, page 167

3. Heaven’s Hotline

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Last Day Events***Wednesday, July 3rd, 2024*****Last Day Events, Chapter 7, pp. 195****“The Shaking”**

“The Latter Rain”**July 3rd****Superficial Believers Will Renounce the Faith****Traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;****2 Timothy 3:4**

The work which the church has failed to do in a time of peace and prosperity she will have to do in a terrible crisis under most discouraging, forbidding circumstances. The warnings that worldly conformity has silenced or withheld must be given under the fiercest opposition from enemies of the faith. And at that time the superficial, conservative [ELLEN WHITE IS NOT HERE DISTINGUISHING THEOLOGICAL CONSERVATIVES FROM THEIR LIBERAL COUNTERPARTS; SHE IS DESCRIBING THOSE WHO PUT "WORLDLY CONFORMITY" FIRST AND GOD'S CAUSE SECOND.] class, whose influence has steadily retarded the progress of the work, will renounce the faith.—*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 463 (1885).

If Satan sees that the Lord is blessing His people and preparing them to discern his delusions, he will work with his master power to bring in fanaticism on the one hand and cold formalism on the other, that he may gather in a harvest of souls.—*Selected Messages*, Book 2, p. 19 (1890).

Those who have had privileges and opportunities to become intelligent in regard to the truth and yet who continue to counterwork the work God would have accomplished will be purged out, for God accepts the service of no man whose interest is divided.—*Manuscript 64*, 1898.

As trials thicken around us, both separation and unity will be seen in our ranks. Some who are now ready to take up weapons of warfare will in times of real peril make it manifest that they have not built upon the solid rock; they will yield to temptation. Those who have had great light and precious privileges but have not improved them will, under one pretext or another, go out from us.—*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 400 (1900).

Daily Scripture**Wednesday, July 3rd, 2024****1st Samuel Chapter 4****The Philistines Capture the Ark**

- 1Sa 4:1 And the word of Samuel came to all Israel. Now Israel went out against the Philistines to battle, and pitched beside Ebenezer: and the Philistines pitched in Aphek.
- 1Sa 4:2 And the Philistines put themselves in array against Israel: and when they joined battle, Israel was smitten before the Philistines: and they slew of the army in the field about four thousand men.
- 1Sa 4:3 And when the people were come into the camp, the elders of Israel said, Wherefore hath the LORD smitten us to day before the Philistines? Let us fetch the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of Shiloh unto us, that, when it cometh among us, it may save us out of the hand of our enemies.
- 1Sa 4:4 So the people sent to Shiloh, that they might bring from thence the ark of the covenant of the LORD of hosts, which dwells *between* the cherubims: and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, *were* there with the ark of the covenant of God.
- 1Sa 4:5 And when the ark of the covenant of the LORD came into the camp, all Israel shouted with a great shout, so that the earth rang again.
- 1Sa 4:6 And when the Philistines heard the noise of the shout, they said, What *means* the noise of this great shout in the camp of the Hebrews? And they understood that the ark of the LORD was come into the camp.
- 1Sa 4:7 And the Philistines were afraid, for they said, God is come into the camp. And they said, Woe unto us! for there has not been such a thing heretofore.
- 1Sa 4:8 Woe unto us! who shall deliver us out of the hand of these mighty Gods? these *are* the Gods that smote the Egyptians with all the plagues in the wilderness.
- 1Sa 4:9 Be strong, and quit yourselves like men, O ye Philistines, that ye be not servants unto the Hebrews, as they have been to you: quit yourselves like men, and fight.
- 1Sa 4:10 And the Philistines fought, and Israel was smitten, and they fled every man into his tent: and there was a very great slaughter; for there fell of Israel thirty thousand footmen.
- 1Sa 4:11 And the ark of God was taken; and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were slain.

The Death of Eli

- 1Sa 4:12 And there ran a man of Benjamin out of the army, and came to Shiloh the same day with his clothes rent, and with earth upon his head.
- 1Sa 4:13 And when he came, lo, Eli sat upon a seat by the wayside watching: for his heart trembled for the ark of God. And when the man came into the city, and told *it*, all the city cried out.
- 1Sa 4:14 And when Eli heard the noise of the crying, he said, What *means* the noise of this tumult? And the man came in hastily, and told Eli.
- 1Sa 4:15 Now Eli was ninety and eight years old; and his eyes were dim, that he could not see.
- 1Sa 4:16 And the man said unto Eli, I *am* he that came out of the army, and I fled to day out of the army. And he said, What is there done, my son?
- 1Sa 4:17 And the messenger answered and said, Israel is fled before the Philistines, and there hath been also a great slaughter among the people, and thy two sons also, Hophni and Phinehas, are dead, and the ark of God is taken.
- 1Sa 4:18 And it came to pass, when he made mention of the ark of God, that he fell from off the seat backward by the side of the gate, and his neck brake, and he died: for he was an old man, and heavy. And he had judged Israel forty years.
- 1Sa 4:19 And his daughter in law, Phinehas' wife, was with child, *near* to be delivered: and when she heard the tidings that the ark of God was taken, and that her father in law and her husband were dead, she bowed herself and travailed; for her pains came upon her.

- 1Sa 4:20 And about the time of her death the women that stood by her said unto her, Fear not; for thou hast born a son. But she answered not, neither did she regard *it*.
- 1Sa 4:21 And she named the child Ichabod, saying, The glory is departed from Israel: because the ark of God was taken, and because of her father in law and her husband.
- 1Sa 4:22 And she said, The glory is departed from Israel: for the ark of God is taken.

*Thursday – July 4th***1. How has Christ identified Himself with His people in the process of sanctification?**

➤ **Hebrews 2:10-11** —

NOTE : ‘Jesus, the world’s Redeemer, submitted to humiliation that we might have hope. For our sake He became poor, that through His merits we might be entitled to imperishable riches. Shall not the story of Christ’s self-denial and self-sacrifice for our sakes, lead us to pour contempt on all our pride and selfishness? The Son of God could make nothing of the human family, save as He submitted to humiliation, and through suffering came in contact with suffering humanity. It was through unutterable woe that Jesus came to reach lost man where he is, plunged in sin and degradation. Let us contemplate the life, nature, and purpose of the King of glory. Let us look upon the Majesty of heaven as He shrouded His glory in the form of a child, and was cradled in a manger. But though He was so lowly born, so humbly circumstanced, angels bowed in adoration before the Babe of Bethlehem, without forfeiting their place in the courts of God or marring their allegiance to the Deity.’ — *Bible Echo*, December 15, 1892.

2. Heaven’s Hotline

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Last Day Events***Thursday, July 4th, 2024*****Last Day Events, Chapter 7, pp. 196****“The Shaking”**

“The Latter Rain”**July 4th****The Straight Testimony Produces a Shaking**

And saw him saying unto me, Make haste, and get thee quickly out of Jerusalem: for they will not receive thy testimony concerning me.

Acts 22:18

I asked the meaning of the shaking I had seen, and was shown that it would be caused by the straight testimony called forth by the counsel of the True Witness to the Laodiceans. This will have its effect upon the heart of the receiver, and will lead him to exalt the standard and pour forth the straight truth. Some will not bear this straight testimony. They will rise up against it, and this will cause a shaking among God's people.—*Testimonies for the Church, vol. 1, p. 181 (1857).*

There are those among us who will make confessions, as did Achan, too late to save themselves. . . . They are not in harmony with right. They despise the straight testimony that reaches the heart, and would rejoice to see everyone silenced who gives reproof.—*Testimonies for the Church, vol. 3, p. 272 (1873).*

The Lord calls for a renewal of the straight testimony borne in years past. He calls for a renewal of spiritual life. The spiritual energies of His people have long been torpid, but there is to be a resurrection from apparent death. By prayer and confession of sin we must clear the King's highway.—*Testimonies for the Church, vol. 8, p. 297 (1904).*

*Daily Scripture**Thursday, July 4th, 2024***1st Samuel Chapter 5****The Philistines and the Ark**

- 1Sa 5:1 And the Philistines took the ark of God, and brought it from Ebenezer unto Ashdod.
- 1Sa 5:2 When the Philistines took the ark of God, they brought it into the house of Dagon, and set it by Dagon.
- 1Sa 5:3 And when they of Ashdod arose early on the morrow, behold, Dagon *was* fallen upon his face to the earth before the ark of the LORD. And they took Dagon, and set him in his place again.
- 1Sa 5:4 And when they arose early on the morrow morning, behold, Dagon *was* fallen upon his face to the ground before the ark of the LORD; and the head of Dagon and both the palms of his hands *were* cut off upon the threshold; only *the stump of* Dagon was left to him.
- 1Sa 5:5 Therefore neither the priests of Dagon, nor any that come into Dagon's house, tread on the threshold of Dagon in Ashdod unto this day.
- 1Sa 5:6 But the hand of the LORD was heavy upon them of Ashdod, and he destroyed them, and smote them with emerods, *even* Ashdod and the coasts thereof.
- 1Sa 5:7 And when the men of Ashdod saw that *it was* so, they said, The ark of the God of Israel shall not abide with us: for his hand is sore upon us, and upon Dagon our god.
- 1Sa 5:8 They sent therefore and gathered all the lords of the Philistines unto them, and said, What shall we do with the ark of the God of Israel? And they answered, Let the ark of the God of Israel be carried about unto Gath. And they carried the ark of the God of Israel about *thither*.
- 1Sa 5:9 And it was *so*, that, after they had carried it about, the hand of the LORD was against the city with a very great destruction: and he smote the men of the city, both small and great, and they had emerods in their secret parts.
- 1Sa 5:10 Therefore they sent the ark of God to Ekron. And it came to pass, as the ark of God came to Ekron, that the Ekronites cried out, saying, They have brought about the ark of the God of Israel to us, to slay us and our people.
- 1Sa 5:11 So they sent and gathered together all the lords of the Philistines, and said, Send away the ark of the God of Israel, and let it go again to his own place, that it slay us not, and our people: for there was a deadly destruction throughout all the city; the hand of God was very heavy there.
- 1Sa 5:12 And the men that died not were smitten with the emerods: and the cry of the city went up to heaven.

*Preparation Day – July 5th***1. How does Paul explain the lengths to which Christ was willing to go to ensure the sanctification of His brethren?**

➤ **Hebrews 2:14-18** —

NOTE : ‘As one of us He was to give an example of obedience. For this He took upon Himself our nature, and passed through our experiences. “In all things it behoved Him to be made like unto His brethren.” Hebrews 2:17. If we had to bear anything which Jesus did not endure, then upon this point Satan would represent the power of God as insufficient for us. Therefore Jesus was “in all points tempted like as we are.” Hebrews 4:15. He endured every trial to which we are subject. And He exercised in His own behalf no power that is not freely offered to us. As man, He met temptation, and overcame in the strength given Him from God. He says, “I delight to do Thy will, O My God: yea, Thy law is within My heart.” Psalm 40:8. As He went about doing good, and healing all who were afflicted by Satan, He made plain to men the character of God’s law and the nature of His service. His life testifies that it is possible for us also to obey the law of God.’ — *The Desire of Ages*, page 24.

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Last Day Events

Preparation Day, July 5th, 2024

Last Day Events, Chapter 7, pp. 197

“The Shaking”

“The Latter Rain”

July 5th

Unjust Criticism Causes Loss of Souls

And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness; And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution arises for the word's sake, immediately they are offended.

Mark 4:16-17

Even in our day there have been and will continue to be entire families who have once rejoiced in the truth, but who will lose faith because of calumnies and falsehoods brought to them in regard to those whom they have loved and with whom they have had sweet counsel. They opened their hearts to the sowing of tares, the tares sprang up among the wheat, they strengthened, the crop of wheat became less and less, and the precious truth lost its power to them.—*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 411 (1898).

Daily Scripture**Preparation Day, July 5th, 2024****1st Samuel Chapter 6****The Ark Returned to Israel**

- 1Sa 6:1 And the ark of the LORD was in the country of the Philistines seven months.
- 1Sa 6:2 And the Philistines called for the priests and the diviners, saying, What shall we do to the ark of the LORD? tell us wherewith we shall send it to his place.
- 1Sa 6:3 And they said, If ye send away the ark of the God of Israel, send it not empty; but in any wise return him a trespass offering; then ye shall be healed, and it shall be known to you why his hand is not removed from you.
- 1Sa 6:4 Then said they, What *shall be* the trespass offering which we shall return to him? They answered, Five golden emerods, and five golden mice, *according to* the number of the lords of the Philistines: for one plague *was* on you all, and on your lords.
- 1Sa 6:5 Wherefore ye shall make images of your emerods, and images of your mice that mar the land; and ye shall give glory unto the God of Israel: peradventure he will lighten his hand from off you, and from off your gods, and from off your land.
- 1Sa 6:6 Wherefore then do ye harden your hearts, as the Egyptians and Pharaoh hardened their hearts? when he had wrought wonderfully among them, did they not let the people go, and they departed?
- 1Sa 6:7 Now therefore make a new cart, and take two milch kine, on which there hath come no yoke, and tie the kine to the cart, and bring their calves home from them:
- 1Sa 6:8 And take the ark of the LORD, and lay it upon the cart; and put the jewels of gold, which ye return him *for* a trespass offering, in a coffer by the side thereof; and send it away, that it may go.
- 1Sa 6:9 And see, if it goeth up by the way of his own coast to Bethshemesh, *then* he hath done us this great evil: but if not, then we shall know that *it is* not his hand *that* smote us: it *was* a chance *that* happened to us.
- 1Sa 6:10 And the men did so; and took two milch kine, and tied them to the cart, and shut up their calves at home:
- 1Sa 6:11 And they laid the ark of the LORD upon the cart, and the coffer with the mice of gold and the images of their emerods.
- 1Sa 6:12 And the kine took the straight way to the way of Bethshemesh, *and* went along the highway, lowing as they went, and turned not aside *to* the right hand or *to* the left; and the lords of the Philistines went after them unto the border of Bethshemesh.
- 1Sa 6:13 And *they of* Bethshemesh *were* reaping their wheat harvest in the valley: and they lifted up their eyes, and saw the ark, and rejoiced to see *it*.
- 1Sa 6:14 And the cart came into the field of Joshua, a Bethshemite, and stood there, where *there was* a great stone: and they clave the wood of the cart, and offered the kine a burnt offering unto the LORD.
- 1Sa 6:15 And the Levites took down the ark of the LORD, and the coffer that *was* with it, wherein the jewels of gold *were*, and put *them* on the great stone: and the men of Bethshemesh offered burnt offerings and sacrificed sacrifices the same day unto the LORD.
- 1Sa 6:16 And when the five lords of the Philistines had seen *it*, they returned to Ekron the same day.
- 1Sa 6:17 And these *are* the golden emerods which the Philistines returned *for* a trespass offering unto the LORD; for Ashdod one, for Gaza one, for Askelon one, for Gath one, for Ekron one;
- 1Sa 6:18 And the golden mice, *according to* the number of all the cities of the Philistines *belonging to* the five lords, *both* of fenced cities, and of country villages, even unto the great *stone of* Abel, whereon they set down the ark of the LORD: *which stone remaineth* unto this day in the field of Joshua, the Bethshemite.
- 1Sa 6:19 And he smote the men of Bethshemesh, because they had looked into the ark of the LORD, even he smote of the people fifty thousand and threescore and ten men: and the people lamented, because the LORD had smitten *many* of the people with a great slaughter.

- 1Sa 6:20 And the men of Bethshemesh said, Who is able to stand before this holy LORD God? and to whom shall he go up from us?
- 1Sa 6:21 And they sent messengers to the inhabitants of Kirjathjearim, saying, The Philistines have brought again the ark of the LORD; come ye down, *and* fetch it up to you.

Adult Mission Story**Preparation Day, July 5th, 2024**

This week's mission story features Ebenezer Seventh-day Adventist Primary School in Roseau, the capital of Dominica. The school, which opened in 1976, consistently ranks in the top 10 list of the 62 elementary schools on the island. But the school building is crowded with 160 children from kindergarten to fourth grade. Several blocks away, 40 fifth and sixth graders study in a makeshift classroom in another building. More parents want to send their children to the school, but there simply isn't room. Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help construct a new, larger school. This is the story of two students.

Suzanne did well in kindergarten at Ebenezer Seventh-day Adventist Primary School. Her parents brought her back to the school for first grade, second grade, and third grade.

But when she was in the fourth grade, her father called the principal. He wasn't happy.

"I have a problem," he said.

The previous weekend, he had asked 9-year-old Suzanne to wash the dishes, but she had refused.

"I'm not washing dishes today because it is the Sabbath," she said.

Father was taken aback, and he repeated his request in no uncertain terms.

But Suzanne refused again.

"I can wash the dishes after sunset," she said.

She explained that at school she had learned the fourth commandment, which says, "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labour and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter ..." ([Exodus 20:8–10, NKJV](#)).

She saw herself as the daughter mentioned in God's law. She viewed the chore of washing dishes as work, and she wanted to keep the Sabbath by refraining from work.

Father wasn't pleased, and he called the principal on Monday morning to complain.

"I don't want two religions in my home," he told the principal. "I didn't send her to a Seventh-day Adventist school to make her an Adventist."

With that, he transferred her to another school.

Jack also entered Ebenezer Seventh-day Adventist Primary School as a kindergartener. But he arrived in the middle of the school year. The teacher was teaching the Ten Commandments to the children when Jack showed up, and his attention was caught by the seventh commandment, which says, "You shall not commit adultery" ([Exodus 20:14](#)).

"Some people live in the same house together, and they are not married," the teacher said. "This is not the way that it is supposed to be because God says the two should get married and become one flesh and live together. They should not live together when they are boyfriend and girlfriend. They should be married."

Jack went home and said, "Mommy, are you married to Daddy?"

"No," Mother said.

"Mommy, you're living in sin," Jack said. "Teacher says you should not live in sin. You should be married."

Mother was shocked. She didn't know what to say. She began to think about the decisions that she had made in her life. Then she had an idea. "Jack," she said, "when Daddy comes home, tell him the same thing that you told me."

When Father arrived home, Jack asked, "Daddy, are you married to Mommy?"

Father was surprised and said, "No, why do you ask?"

"In class today, Teacher said a man should not live with a woman without being married," Jack said. "Daddy, you're living in sin. You should be married."

Father decided to have a heart-to-heart talk with Mother. Not long after that, the two were married.

Mother later related the story to the school principal. She said Jack's words had led the couple to get married.

The principal, Ursula Leslie, said that the school has a mission to share the Bible with all children. What happens next is the work of the Holy Spirit.

"Parents sometimes oppose the students' decision when they choose to follow Christ all the way," she said.

"That is one of the challenges that we have. Some students want to be baptized, but parents just want them to learn good values and nothing more."

But there also are heart-warming stories about parents who accept the Bible truths that their children bring home. Only eternity will reveal the results of the seeds planted in the hearts of children and their parents.

Pray for Ebenezer Seventh-day Adventist Primary School, that seeds planted in the hearts of children and parents will bear fruit. Thank you for planning a generous Thirteenth Sabbath Offering for the school.

By Andrew McChesney

LESSON 2

“THAT YE BEAR MUCH FRUIT”

July 6 — July 12

📖 MEMORY VERSE : “And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.” [James 3:18]

? STUDY HELP : ✓ The Sanctified Life, pages 7-16.

📖 SCRIPTURE : Luke 18:10-14

🎯 LESSON AIM : To study true and false types of sanctification.

💬 INTRODUCTION : When persons claim that they are sanctified, they give sufficient evidence that they are far from being holy. They fail to see their own weakness and destitution. They look upon themselves as reflecting the image of Christ, because they have no true knowledge of Him. The greater the distance between them and their Saviour, the more righteous they appear in their own eyes.’ — *The Sanctified Life*, page 8.

Sabbath – July 6th

1. What claim will never be made by the genuine follower of Christ?

➤ **1 John 1:8 & 10 —**

NOTE : ‘Those who are really seeking to perfect Christian character will never indulge the thought that they are sinless. Their lives may be irreproachable, they may be living representatives of the truth which they have accepted; but the more they discipline their minds to dwell upon the character of Christ, and the nearer they approach to His divine image, the more clearly will they discern its spotless perfection, and the more deeply will they feel their own defects.’ — *The Sanctified Life*, page 7.

2. Heaven’s Hotline

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*E. G. W. Study Help 2**Sabbath, July 6th, 2024***The Sanctified Life****Chapter 1, p. 7-16****True and False Theories Contrasted**

The sanctification set forth in the Sacred Scriptures has to do with the entire being--spirit, soul, and body. Here is the true idea of entire consecration. Paul prays that the church at Thessalonica may enjoy this great blessing. "The very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thessalonians 5:23). {SL 7.1}

There is in the religious world a theory of sanctification which is false in itself and dangerous in its influence. In many cases those who profess sanctification do not possess the genuine article. Their sanctification consists in talk and will worship. Those who are really seeking to perfect Christian character will never indulge the thought that they are sinless. Their lives may be irreproachable, they may be living representatives of the truth which they have accepted; but the more they discipline their minds to dwell upon the character of Christ, and the nearer they approach to His divine image, the more clearly will they discern its spotless perfection, and the more deeply will they feel their own defects. {SL 7.2}

When persons claim that they are sanctified, they give sufficient evidence that they are far from being holy. They fail to see their own weakness and destitution. They look upon themselves as reflecting the image of Christ, because they have no true knowledge of Him. The greater the distance between them and their Saviour, the more righteous they appear in their own eyes. {SL 8.1}

While with penitence and humble trust we meditate upon Jesus, whom our sins have pierced and our sorrows have burdened, we may learn to walk in His footsteps. By beholding Him we become changed into His divine likeness. And when this work is wrought in us, we shall claim no righteousness of our own, but shall exalt Jesus Christ, while we hang our helpless souls upon His merits. {SL 8.2}

Self-righteousness Condemned

Our Saviour ever condemned self-righteousness. He taught His disciples that the highest type of religion is that which manifests itself in a quiet, unobtrusive manner. He cautioned them to perform their deeds of charity quietly; not for display, not to be praised or honoured of men, but for the glory of God, expecting their reward hereafter. If they should perform good deeds to be lauded by men, no reward would be given them by their Father in heaven. {SL 8.3}

The followers of Christ were instructed not to pray for the purpose of being heard of men. "But thou, when thou pray, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which sees in secret shall reward thee openly" (Matthew 6:6). Such expressions as this from the lips of Christ show that He did not regard with approval that kind of piety so prevalent among the Pharisees. His teachings upon the mount show that deeds of benevolence assume a noble form and acts of religious worship shed a most precious fragrance when performed in an unpretending manner, in penitence and humility. The pure motive sanctifies the act. {SL 8.4}

True sanctification is an entire conformity to the will of God. Rebellious thoughts and feelings are overcome, and the voice of Jesus awakens a new life, which pervades the entire being. Those who are truly sanctified will not set up their own opinion as a standard of right and wrong. They are not bigoted or self-righteousness; but they are jealous of self, ever fearing lest, a promise being left them, they should come short of complying with the conditions upon which the promises are based. {SL 9.1}

Substituting Feeling for Reason

Many who profess sanctification are entirely ignorant of the work of grace upon the heart. When proved and tested, they are found to be like the self-righteous Pharisee. They will bear no contradiction. They lay aside reason and judgment, and depend wholly upon their feelings, basing their claims to sanctification upon emotions which they have at some time experienced. They are stubborn and perverse in urging their tenacious claims of holiness, giving many words, but bearing no precious fruit as proof. These professedly sanctified persons are not only deluding their own souls by their pretensions, but are exerting an influence to lead astray many who earnestly desire to conform to the will of God. They may be heard to reiterate again and again, "God leads me! God teaches me! I am living without sin!" Many who come in contact with this spirit encounter a dark, mysterious something which they cannot comprehend. But it is that which is altogether unlike Christ, the only true pattern. {SL 9.2}

Bible sanctification does not consist in strong emotion. Here is where many are led into error. They make feelings their criterion. When they feel elated or happy, they claim that they are sanctified. Happy feelings or the absence of joy is no evidence that a person is or is not sanctified. There is no such thing as instantaneous sanctification. True sanctification is a daily work, continuing as long as life shall last. Those who are battling with daily temptations, overcoming their own sinful tendencies, and seeking for holiness of heart and life, make no boastful claims of holiness. They are hungering and thirsting for righteousness. Sin appears to them exceedingly sinful. {SL 10.1}

There are those claiming sanctification who make a profession of the truth, like their brethren, and it may be difficult to make a distinction between them; but the difference exists, nevertheless. The testimony of those claiming such an exalted experience will cause the sweet Spirit of Christ to withdraw from a meeting, and will leave a chilling influence upon those present, while if they were truly living without sin, their very presence would bring holy angels into the assembly, and their words would indeed be "like apples of gold in pictures of silver" (Proverbs 25:11). {SL 10.2}

The Testing Time

In summer, as we look upon the trees of the distant forest, all clothed with a beautiful mantle of green, we may not be able to distinguish between the evergreens and the other trees. But as winter approaches, and the frost king encloses them in his icy embrace, stripping the other trees of their beautiful foliage, the evergreens are readily discerned. Thus it will be with all who are walking in humility, distrustful of self, but clinging tremblingly to the hand of Christ. While those who are self-confident, and trust in their own perfection of character, lose their false robe of righteousness when subjected to the storms of trial, the truly righteous, who sincerely love and fear God, wear the robe of Christ's righteousness in prosperity and adversity alike. {SL 11.1}

Self-denial, self-sacrifice, benevolence, kindness, love, patience, fortitude, and Christian trust are the daily fruits borne by those who are truly connected with God. Their acts may not be published to the world, but they themselves are daily wrestling with evil, and gaining precious victories over temptation and wrong. Solemn vows are renewed, and kept through the strength gained by earnest prayer and constant watching thereunto. The ardent enthusiast does not discern the struggles of these silent workers; but the eye of Him who sees the secrets of the heart, notices and regards with approval every effort put forth in lowliness and meekness. It requires the testing time to reveal the pure gold of love and faith in the character. When trials and perplexities come upon the church, then the steadfast zeal and warm affections of Christ's true followers are developed. {SL 11.2}

We feel sad to see professed Christians led astray by the false and bewitching theory that they are perfect, because it is so difficult to undeceive them and lead them into the right path. They have sought to make the exterior fair and pleasing, while the inward adorning, the meekness and lowliness of Christ, is wanting. The testing time will come to all, when the hopes of many who have for years thought themselves secure, will be seen to be without foundation. When in new positions, under varied circumstances, some who have seemed to be pillars in the house of God reveal only rotten timber beneath the paint and varnish. But the humble in heart, who have daily felt the importance of riveting their souls to the eternal Rock, will stand unmoved amid the tempests of trial, because they trusted not to themselves. "The foundation of God stands sure, having this seal, The Lord knows them that are his" (2 Timothy 2:19). {SL 12.1}

Normal Fruit Bearing

Those who take pains to call attention to their good works, constantly talking of their sinless state and endeavouring to make their religious attainments prominent, are only deceiving their own souls by so doing. A healthy man, who is able to attend to the vocations of life and who goes forth day after day to his labour with buoyant spirits and with a healthy current of blood flowing through his veins, does not call the attention of every one he meets to his soundness of body. Health and vigour are the natural conditions of his life, and therefore he is scarcely conscious that he is in the enjoyment of so rich a boon. {SL 12.2}

Thus it is with the truly righteous man. He is unconscious of his goodness and piety. Religious principle has become the spring of his life and conduct, and it is just as natural for him to bear the fruits of the Spirit as for the fig tree to bear figs or for the rosebush to yield roses. His nature is so thoroughly imbued with love for God and his fellow men that he works the works of Christ with a willing heart. {SL 13.1}

All who come within the sphere of his influence perceive the beauty and fragrance of his Christian life, while he himself is unconscious of it, for it is in harmony with his habits and inclinations. He prays for divine light, and loves to walk in that light. It is his meat and drink to do the will of his heavenly Father. His life is hid with Christ in God; yet he does not boast of this, nor seem conscious of it. God smiles upon the humble and lowly ones who follow closely in the footsteps of the Master. Angels are attracted to them, and love to linger about their path. They may be passed by as unworthy of notice by those who claim exalted attainments and who delight in making prominent their good works, but heavenly angels bend lovingly over them and are as a wall of fire round about them. {SL 13.2}

Why Christ Was Rejected

Our Saviour was the light of the world, but the world knew Him not. He was constantly employed in works of mercy, shedding light upon the pathway of all; yet He did not call upon those with whom He mingled to behold His unexampled virtue, His self-denial, self-sacrifice, and benevolence. The Jews did not admire such a life. They considered His religion worthless, because it did not accord with their standard of piety. They decided that Christ was not religious in spirit or character; for their religion consisted in display, in praying publicly, and in doing works of charity for effect. They trumpeted their good deeds, as do those who claim sanctification. They would have all understand that they are without sin. But the whole life of Christ was in direct contrast to this. He sought neither gain nor honour. His wonderful acts of healing were performed in as quiet a manner as possible, although He could not restrain the enthusiasm of those who were the recipients of His great blessings. Humility and meekness characterized His life. And it was because of His lowly walk and unassuming manners, which were in such marked contrast to their own, that the Pharisees would not accept Him. {SL 14.1}

Meekness a Fruit of the Spirit

The most precious fruit of sanctification is the grace of meekness. When this grace presides in the soul, the disposition is molded by its influence. There is a continual waiting upon God and a submission of the will to His. The understanding grasps every divine truth, and the will bows to every divine precept, without doubting or murmuring. True meekness softens and subdues the heart and gives the mind a fitness for the engrafted word. It brings the thoughts into obedience to Jesus Christ. It opens the heart to the word of God, as Lydia's was opened. It places us with Mary, as learners at the feet of Jesus. "The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way" (Psalm 25:9). {SL 14.2}

The language of the meek is never that of boasting. Like the child Samuel, they pray, "Speak, Lord; for thy servant hears" (1 Samuel 3:9). When Joshua was placed in the highest position of honour, as commander of Israel, he bade defiance to all the enemies of God. His heart was filled with noble thoughts of his great mission. Yet upon the intimation of a message from Heaven he placed himself in the position of a little child to be directed. "What saith my lord unto his servant?" (Joshua 5:14), was his response. The first words of Paul after Christ was revealed to him were, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" (Acts 9:6). {SL 15.1}

Meekness in the school of Christ is one of the marked fruits of the Spirit. It is a grace wrought by the Holy Spirit as a sanctifier, and enables its possessor at all times to control a rash and impetuous temper. When the grace of meekness is cherished by those who are naturally sour or hasty in disposition, they will put forth the most earnest efforts to subdue their unhappy temper. Every day they will gain self-control, until that which is unlovely and unlike Jesus is conquered. They become assimilated to the Divine Pattern, until they can obey the inspired injunction, "Be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath" (James 1:19). {SL 15.2}

When a man professes to be sanctified, and yet in words and works may be represented by the impure fountain sending forth its bitter waters, we may safely say, That man is deceived. He needs to learn the very alphabet of what constitutes the life of a Christian. Some who profess to be servants of Christ have so long cherished the demon of unkindness that they seem to love the unhallowed element and to take pleasure in speaking words that displease and irritate. These men must be converted before Christ will acknowledge them as His children. {SL 16.1}

Meekness is the inward adorning, which God estimates as of great price. The apostle speaks of this as more excellent and valuable than gold or pearls or costly array. While the outward adorning beautifies only the mortal body, the ornament of meekness adorns the soul and connects finite man with the infinite God. This is the ornament of God's own choice. He who garnished the heavens with the orbs of light has by the same Spirit promised that "he will beautify the meek with salvation" (Psalm 149:4). Angels of heaven will register as best adorned those who put on the Lord Jesus Christ and walk with Him in meekness and lowliness of mind. {SL 16.2}

There are high attainments for the Christian. He may ever be rising to higher attainments. John had an elevated idea of the privilege of a Christian. He says, "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God" (1 John 3:1). It is not possible for humanity to rise to a higher dignity than is here implied. To man is granted the privilege of becoming an heir of God and a joint heir with Christ. To those who have been thus exalted, are unfolded the unsearchable riches of Christ, which are of a thousandfold more value than the wealth of the world. Thus, through the merits of Jesus Christ, finite man is elevated to fellowship with God and with His dear Son. {SL 16.3}

Last Day Events***Sabbath, July 6th, 2024*****Last Day Events, Chapter 7, pp. 198****“The Shaking”**

“The Latter Rain”**July 6th****False Doctrines Draw Some Away**

Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.

Matthew 10:16

Science, so-called, and religion will be placed in opposition to each other because finite men do not comprehend the power and greatness of God. These words of Holy Writ were presented to me, "*Of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them*" [Acts 20:30]. This will surely be seen among the people of God.—*Evangelism*, p. 593 (1890).

When the shaking comes, by the introduction of false theories, these surface readers, anchored nowhere, are like shifting sand. They slide into any position to suit the tenor of their feelings of bitterness.—*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 112 (1897).

Not having received the love of the truth, they will be taken in the delusions of the enemy; they will give heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils and will depart from the faith.—*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 401 (1900).

The enemy will bring in false theories, such as the doctrine that there is no sanctuary. This is one of the points on which there will be a departing from the faith.—*Evangelism*, p. 224 (1905).

Daily Scripture**Sabbath, July 6th, 2024****1st Samuel Chapter 7**

1Sa 7:1 And the men of Kirjathjearim came, and fetched up the ark of the LORD, and brought it into the house of Abinadab in the hill, and sanctified Eleazar his son to keep the ark of the LORD.

1Sa 7:2 And it came to pass, while the ark abode in Kirjathjearim, that the time was long; for it was twenty years: and all the house of Israel lamented after the LORD.

Samuel Judges Israel

1Sa 7:3 And Samuel spake unto all the house of Israel, saying, If ye do return unto the LORD with all your hearts, *then* put away the strange gods and Ashtaroth from among you, and prepare your hearts unto the LORD, and serve him only: and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines.

1Sa 7:4 Then the children of Israel did put away Baalim and Ashtaroth, and served the LORD only.

1Sa 7:5 And Samuel said, Gather all Israel to Mizpeh, and I will pray for you unto the LORD.

1Sa 7:6 And they gathered together to Mizpeh, and drew water, and poured *it* out before the LORD, and fasted on that day, and said there, We have sinned against the LORD. And Samuel judged the children of Israel in Mizpeh.

1Sa 7:7 And when the Philistines heard that the children of Israel were gathered together to Mizpeh, the lords of the Philistines went up against Israel. And when the children of Israel heard *it*, they were afraid of the Philistines.

1Sa 7:8 And the children of Israel said to Samuel, Cease not to cry unto the LORD our God for us, that he will save us out of the hand of the Philistines.

1Sa 7:9 And Samuel took a sucking lamb, and offered *it for* a burnt offering wholly unto the LORD: and Samuel cried unto the LORD for Israel; and the LORD heard him.

1Sa 7:10 And as Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to battle against Israel: but the LORD thundered with a great thunder on that day upon the Philistines, and discomfited them; and they were smitten before Israel.

1Sa 7:11 And the men of Israel went out of Mizpeh, and pursued the Philistines, and smote them, until *they came* under Bethcar.

1Sa 7:12 Then Samuel took a stone, and set *it* between Mizpeh and Shen, and called the name of it Ebenezer, saying, Hitherto hath the LORD helped us.

1Sa 7:13 So the Philistines were subdued, and they came no more into the coast of Israel: and the hand of the LORD was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel.

1Sa 7:14 And the cities which the Philistines had taken from Israel were restored to Israel, from Ekron even unto Gath; and the coasts thereof did Israel deliver out of the hands of the Philistines. And there was peace between Israel and the Amorites.

1Sa 7:15 And Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life.

1Sa 7:16 And he went from year to year in circuit to Bethel, and Gilgal, and Mizpeh, and judged Israel in all those places.

1Sa 7:17 And his return *was* to Ramah; for there *was* his house; and there he judged Israel; and there he built an altar unto the LORD.

*Children's Mission Story**Sabbath, July 6th, 2024*

Little Karyeri [Kar-jerry] loved her great-grandmother very much. Great-Grandmother loved Karyeri very much.

When Great-Grandmother fell ill, they spent hours together in the bedroom where Great-Grandmother stayed in the family house in Costa Rica.

Then Great-Grandmother got very, very sick, and she died.

Karyeri was very sad.

Father and Mother saw Karyeri's downcast face and bought her a little Schnauzer puppy. They hoped that little Tinky would make their daughter smile.

But the puppy died.

Now Karyeri was very, very sad.

"Mommy, everything that I love is gone," she said.

Mother held the little girl in her arms. They cried together.

A few days later, something scary happened. Evil entered the house.

Karyeri first saw the brown monkey wearing a red-and-white shirt in the living room. She was scared, and she ran to the kitchen. But the monkey was in the kitchen. Then Karyeri fled to her bedroom, but the monkey was there, too.

Now Karyeri was very scared, and she told Father and Mother.

But her parents could not see the monkey. They didn't understand what was happening. They asked a Seventh-day Adventist pastor for help.

The pastor spoke with the little girl. She told him about her deep sadness over losing her great-grandmother and the puppy. She described how the monkey was appearing in the different rooms of the house.

The pastor had never heard such a story before. He prayed. He wondered if the monkey might be connected to Karyeri's deep sadness.

He told Father and Mother that their only hope was in God.

"Spend time with God, pray and read the Bible, and He will help," he said.

Father and Mother decided to make more time for God. The family had morning worship, but not every day. Sometimes Father and Mother were so busy that they forgot to call Karyeri to the living room to read the Bible and pray for morning worship.

Something had to change. Father and Mother decided to have family worship, not only every morning but also every evening. So, before Karyeri played with her toys or ate breakfast in the morning, she went to the living room for worship. Before going to bed at night, she joined her parents for worship again.

Karyeri loved hearing stories from the Bible. As she listened, her sadness disappeared. As she listened, she smiled. When she learned that Jesus will return to the earth and raise the dead back to life, her face beamed with joy!

"Mommy, I want Jesus to come quickly," she said.

"Why's that?" Mother asked.

"Because I want to see my great-grandmother," she said. "I know Jesus will raise her back to life."

At every morning and evening worship, Karyeri prayed for the scary monkey to go away. Father also prayed, and Mother prayed.

As they prayed, the monkey grew smaller and smaller.

Then the day came that the monkey was no more. Karyeri stopped seeing it in the house.

Today, Karyeri is 10 years old, and she reads the Bible by herself for her personal morning devotions. Then she goes to the living room to have worship with the rest of the family. She loves to read about the Jesus who loves her and protects her from all scary things.

"Every morning, I have my own worship before I do anything else," she said.

By Andrew McChesney

Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help open a center of influence that will teach at-risk children about the Jesus who loves and protects them in Costa Rica. Thank you for planning a generous offering on September 28.

Sunday – July 7th

1. How did Job's estimate of himself differ from God's description of him?

- Job 1:8 —
- Job 2:3 —
- Job 9:20-21 —

NOTE : 'True sanctification is an entire conformity to the will of God. Rebellious thoughts and feelings are overcome, and the voice of Jesus awakens a new life, which pervades the entire being. Those who are truly sanctified will not set up their own opinion as a standard of right and wrong. They are not bigoted or self-righteousness; but they are jealous of self, ever fearing lest, a promise being left them, they should come short of complying with the conditions upon which the promises are based.' — *The Sanctified Life*, page 9.

2. Heaven's Hotline



Last Day Events***Sunday, July 7th, 2024******Last Day Events, Chapter 7, pp. 199*****“The Shaking”**

“The Latter Rain”**July 7th****Rejection of the Testimonies Results in Apostasy****Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keeps the law, happy is he.****Proverbs 29:18**

One thing is certain: Those Seventh-day Adventists who take their stand under Satan's banner will first give up their faith in the warnings and reproofs contained in the Testimonies of God's Spirit.—*Selected Messages, Book 3, p. 84 (1903)*.

The very last deception of Satan will be to make of none effect the testimony of the Spirit of God. "Where there is no vision, the people perish" [Proverbs 29:18]. Satan will work ingeniously, in different ways and through different agencies, to unsettle the confidence of God's remnant people in the true testimony.—*Selected Messages, Book 1, p. 48 (1890)*.

The enemy has made his masterly efforts to unsettle the faith of our own people in the Testimonies. . . . This is just as Satan designed it should be, and those who have been preparing the way for the people to pay no heed to the warnings and reproofs of the Testimonies of the Spirit of God will see that a tide of errors of all kinds will spring into life.—*Selected Messages, Book 3, p. 83 (1890)*.

It is Satan's plan to weaken the faith of God's people in the Testimonies. Next follows scepticism in regard to the vital points of our faith, the pillars of our position, then doubt as to the Holy Scriptures, and then the downward march to perdition. When the Testimonies, which were once believed, are doubted and given up, Satan knows the deceived ones will not stop at this; and he redoubles his efforts till he launches them into open rebellion, which becomes incurable and ends in destruction.—*Testimonies for the Church, vol. 4, p. 211*.

Daily Scripture**Sunday, July 7th, 2024****1st Samuel Chapter 8****Israel Demands a King**

- 1Sa 8:1 And it came to pass, when Samuel was old, that he made his sons judges over Israel.
- 1Sa 8:2 Now the name of his firstborn was Joel; and the name of his second, Abiah: *they were* judges in Beersheba.
- 1Sa 8:3 And his sons walked not in his ways, but turned aside after lucre, and took bribes, and perverted judgment.
- 1Sa 8:4 Then all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel unto Ramah,
- 1Sa 8:5 And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.
- 1Sa 8:6 But the thing displeased Samuel, when they said, Give us a king to judge us. And Samuel prayed unto the LORD.
- 1Sa 8:7 And the LORD said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them.
- 1Sa 8:8 According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt even unto this day, wherewith they have forsaken me, and served other gods, so do they also unto thee.
- 1Sa 8:9 Now therefore hearken unto their voice: howbeit yet protest solemnly unto them, and shew them the manner of the king that shall reign over them.

Samuel's Warning Against Kings

- 1Sa 8:10 And Samuel told all the words of the LORD unto the people that asked of him a king.
- 1Sa 8:11 And he said, This will be the manner of the king that shall reign over you: He will take your sons, and appoint *them* for himself, for his chariots, and *to be* his horsemen; and *some* shall run before his chariots.
- 1Sa 8:12 And he will appoint him captains over thousands, and captains over fifties; and *will set them* to ear his ground, and to reap his harvest, and to make his instruments of war, and instruments of his chariots.
- 1Sa 8:13 And he will take your daughters *to be* confectionaries, and *to be* cooks, and *to be* bakers.
- 1Sa 8:14 And he will take your fields, and your vineyards, and your oliveyards, *even the best of them*, and give *them* to his servants.
- 1Sa 8:15 And he will take the tenth of your seed, and of your vineyards, and give to his officers, and to his servants.
- 1Sa 8:16 And he will take your menservants, and your maidservants, and your goodliest young men, and your asses, and put *them* to his work.
- 1Sa 8:17 He will take the tenth of your sheep: and ye shall be his servants.
- 1Sa 8:18 And ye shall cry out in that day because of your king which ye shall have chosen you; and the LORD will not hear you in that day.

The Lord Grants Israel's Request

- 1Sa 8:19 Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, Nay; but we will have a king over us;
- 1Sa 8:20 That we also may be like all the nations; and that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles.
- 1Sa 8:21 And Samuel heard all the words of the people, and he rehearsed them in the ears of the LORD.
- 1Sa 8:22 And the LORD said to Samuel, Hearken unto their voice, and make them a king. And Samuel said unto the men of Israel, Go ye every man unto his city.

Monday – July 8th

1. What story did Jesus tell to illustrate the contrast between true and false types of sanctification?

➤ **Luke 18:10-14** —

NOTE : ‘Many who profess sanctification are entirely ignorant of the work of grace upon the heart. When proved and tested, they are found to be like the self-righteous Pharisee. They will bear no contradiction. They lay aside reason and judgment, and depend wholly upon their feelings, basing their claims to sanctification upon emotions which they have at some time experienced. They are stubborn and perverse in urging their tenacious claims of holiness, giving many words, but bearing no precious fruit as proof. These professedly sanctified persons are not only deluding their own souls by their pretensions, but are exerting an influence to lead astray many who earnestly desire to conform to the will of God.’ — *The Sanctified Life*, page 9.

2. How did Jesus contrast the outward profession of the hypocrite with the true state of the heart?

➤ **Matthew 23:25-28** —

NOTE : ‘There are those claiming sanctification who make a profession of the truth, like their brethren, and it may be difficult to make a distinction between them; but the difference exists, nevertheless. The testimony of those claiming such an exalted experience will cause the sweet Spirit of Christ to withdraw from a meeting, and will leave a chilling influence upon those present, while if they were truly living without sin, their very presence would bring holy angels into the assembly, and their words would indeed be “like apples of gold in pictures of silver.” [Proverbs 25:11]’ — *The Sanctified Life*, page 10.

3. Heaven’s Hotline

➤

Last Day Events

Monday, July 8th, 2024

Last Day Events, Chapter 7, pp. 200

“The Shaking”

“The Latter Rain”

July 8th

Defections Among Church Leaders

Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against the shepherds; and I will require my flock at their hand, and cause them to cease from feeding the flock; neither shall the shepherds feed themselves anymore; for I will deliver my flock from their mouth, that they may not be meat for them.

Ezekiel 34:10

Many a star that we have admired for its brilliance will then go out in darkness.—*Prophets and Kings*, p. 188 (c. 1914).

Men whom He has greatly honoured will, in the closing scenes of this earth's history, pattern after ancient Israel. . . . A departure from the great principles Christ has laid down in His teachings, a working out of human projects, using the Scriptures to justify a wrong course of action under the perverse working of Lucifer, will confirm men in misunderstanding, and the truth that they need to keep them from wrong practices will leak out of the soul like water from a leaky vessel.—*Manuscript Release*, 13, p. 379, 381 (1904).

Many will show that they are not one with Christ, that they are not dead to the world, that they may live with Him; and frequent will be the apostasies of men who have occupied responsible positions.—*Review and Herald* September 11, 1888.

*Daily Scripture**Monday, July 8th, 2024***1st Samuel Chapter 9****Saul Chosen to Be King**

- 1Sa 9:1 Now there was a man of Benjamin, whose name *was* Kish, the son of Abiel, the son of Zeror, the son of Bechorath, the son of Aphiah, a Benjamite, a mighty man of power.
- 1Sa 9:2 And he had a son, whose name *was* Saul, a choice young man, and a goodly: and *there was* not among the children of Israel a goodlier person than he: from his shoulders and upward *he was* higher than any of the people.
- 1Sa 9:3 And the asses of Kish Saul's father were lost. And Kish said to Saul his son, Take now one of the servants with thee, and arise, go seek the asses.
- 1Sa 9:4 And he passed through mount Ephraim, and passed through the land of Shalisha, but they found *them* not: then they passed through the land of Shalim, and *there they were* not: and he passed through the land of the Benjamites, but they found *them* not.
- 1Sa 9:5 *And* when they were come to the land of Zuph, Saul said to his servant that *was* with him, Come, and let us return; lest my father leave *caring* for the asses, and take thought for us.
- 1Sa 9:6 And he said unto him, Behold now, *there is* in this city a man of God, and *he is* an honourable man; all that he saith cometh surely to pass: now let us go thither; peradventure he can shew us our way that we should go.
- 1Sa 9:7 Then said Saul to his servant, But, behold, *if* we go, what shall we bring the man? for the bread is spent in our vessels, and *there is* not a present to bring to the man of God: what have we?
- 1Sa 9:8 And the servant answered Saul again, and said, Behold, I have here at hand the fourth part of a shekel of silver: *that* will I give to the man of God, to tell us our way.
- 1Sa 9:9 (Beforetime in Israel, when a man went to enquire of God, thus he spake, Come, and let us go to the seer: for *he that is* now *called* a Prophet was beforetime called a Seer.)
- 1Sa 9:10 Then said Saul to his servant, Well said; come, let us go. So they went unto the city where the man of God *was*.
- 1Sa 9:11 *And* as they went up the hill to the city, they found young maidens going out to draw water, and said unto them, Is the seer here?
- 1Sa 9:12 And they answered them, and said, He is; behold, *he is* before you: make haste now, for he came to day to the city; for *there is* a sacrifice of the people to day in the high place:
- 1Sa 9:13 As soon as ye be come into the city, ye shall straightway find him, before he go up to the high place to eat: for the people will not eat until he come, because he doth bless the sacrifice; *and* afterwards they eat that be bidden. Now therefore get you up; for about this time ye shall find him.
- 1Sa 9:14 And they went up into the city: *and* when they were come into the city, behold, Samuel came out against them, for to go up to the high place.
- 1Sa 9:15 Now the LORD had told Samuel in his ear a day before Saul came, saying,
- 1Sa 9:16 Tomorrow about this time I will send thee a man out of the land of Benjamin, and thou shalt anoint him *to be* captain over my people Israel, that he may save my people out of the hand of the Philistines: for I have looked upon my people, because their cry is come unto me.
- 1Sa 9:17 And when Samuel saw Saul, the LORD said unto him, Behold the man whom I spoke to thee of! this same shall reign over my people.
- 1Sa 9:18 Then Saul drew near to Samuel in the gate, and said, Tell me, I pray thee, where the seer's house *is*.
- 1Sa 9:19 And Samuel answered Saul, and said, I *am* the seer: go up before me unto the high place; for ye shall eat with me today, and tomorrow I will let thee go, and will tell thee all that *is* in thine heart.
- 1Sa 9:20 And as for thine asses that were lost three days ago, set not thy mind on them; for they are found. And on whom *is* all the desire of Israel? *Is it* not on thee, and on all thy father's house?
- 1Sa 9:21 And Saul answered and said, *Am* not I a Benjamite, of the smallest of the tribes of Israel? and my family the least of all the families of the tribe of Benjamin? wherefore then speak thou so to me?

- 1Sa 9:22 And Samuel took Saul and his servant, and brought them into the parlour, and made them sit in the chiefest place among them that were bidden, which *were* about thirty persons.
- 1Sa 9:23 And Samuel said unto the cook, Bring the portion which I gave thee, of which I said unto thee, Set it by thee.
- 1Sa 9:24 And the cook took up the shoulder, and *that* which *was* upon it, and set *it* before Saul. And *Samuel* said, Behold that which is left! set *it* before thee, *and* eat: for unto this time hath it been kept for thee since I said, I have invited the people. So Saul did eat with Samuel that day.
- 1Sa 9:25 And when they were come down from the high place into the city, *Samuel* communed with Saul upon the top of the house.
- 1Sa 9:26 And they arose early: and it came to pass about the spring of the day, that Samuel called Saul to the top of the house, saying, Up, that I may send thee away. And Saul arose, and they went out both of them, he and Samuel, abroad.
- 1Sa 9:27 *And* as they were going down to the end of the city, Samuel said to Saul, Bid the servant pass on before us, (and he passed on,) but stand thou still a while, that I may shew thee the word of God.

Tuesday – July 9th

1. How are we shown the true basis of the Christian's walk with God?

➤ **Isaiah 30:15** —

NOTE: 'Bible sanctification does not consist in strong emotion. Here is where many are led into error. They make feelings their criterion. When they feel elated or happy, they claim that they are sanctified. Happy feelings or the absence of joy is no evidence that a person is or is not sanctified.' — *The Sanctified Life*, page 10.

'Christ came to this world to show that by receiving power from on high, man can live an unsullied life. With unwearying patience and sympathetic helpfulness He met men in their necessities. By the gentle touch of grace He banished from the soul unrest and doubt, changing enmity to love, and unbelief to confidence. It is not wise to look to ourselves and study our emotions. If we do this, the enemy will present difficulties and temptations that weaken faith and destroy courage. Closely to study our emotions and give way to our feelings is to entertain doubt and entangle ourselves in perplexity. We are to look away from self to Jesus. When temptations assail you, when care, perplexity, and darkness seem to surround your soul, look to the place where you last saw the light. Rest in Christ's love and under His protecting care. When sin struggles for the mastery in the heart, when guilt oppresses the soul and burdens the conscience, when unbelief clouds the mind, remember that Christ's grace is sufficient to subdue sin and banish the darkness.' — *God's Amazing Grace*, page 109.

2. What is God's purpose in permitting trials and temptations to come to us?

➤ **Hebrews 12:11** —

NOTE: 'Christ desires nothing so much as to redeem His heritage from the dominion of Satan. But before we are delivered from Satan's power without, we must be delivered from his power within. The Lord permits trials in order that we may be cleansed from earthliness, from selfishness, from harsh, unchristlike traits of character. He suffers the deep waters of affliction to go over our souls in order that we may know Him and Jesus Christ whom He has sent, in order that we may have deep heart longings to be cleansed from defilement, and may come forth from the trial purer, holier, happier. Often we enter the furnace of trial with our souls darkened with selfishness; but if patient under the crucial test, we shall come forth reflecting the divine character. When His purpose in the affliction is accomplished, "He shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday." Psalm 37:6.' — *Christ's Object Lessons*, page 174.

3. Heaven's Hotline —

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Last Day Events

Tuesday, July 9th, 2024

Last Day Events, Chapter 7, pp. 201

“The Shaking”

“The Latter Rain”

July 9th

Unsanctified Ministers Will Be Weeded Out

The hireling flees, because he is an hireling, and cares not for the sheep.

John 10:13

The great issue so near at hand [enforcement of Sunday laws] will weed out those whom God has not appointed and He will have a pure, true, sanctified ministry prepared for the latter rain.—*Selected Messages, Book 3, p. 385 (1886)*.

Many will stand in our pulpits with the torch of false prophecy in their hands, kindled from the hellish torch of Satan. . . .

Some will go out from among us who will bear the ark no longer. But these cannot make walls to obstruct the truth; for it will go onward and upward to the end.—*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers, p. 409, 411 (1898)*.

Ministers and doctors may depart from the faith, as the Word declares they will, and as the messages that God has given His servant declare they will.—*Manuscript Release, No. 7, p. 192 (1906)*.

Daily Scripture**Tuesday, July 9th, 2024****1st Samuel Chapter 10****Saul Anointed King**

- 1Sa 10:1 Then Samuel took a vial of oil, and poured *it* upon his head, and kissed him, and said, *Is it* not because the LORD hath anointed thee *to be* captain over his inheritance?
- 1Sa 10:2 When thou art departed from me today, then thou shalt find two men by Rachel's sepulchre in the border of Benjamin at Zelzah; and they will say unto thee, The asses which thou went to seek are found: and, lo, thy father hath left the care of the asses, and sorrows for you, saying, What shall I do for my son?
- 1Sa 10:3 Then shalt thou go on forward from thence, and thou shalt come to the plain of Tabor, and there shall meet you three men going up to God to Bethel, one carrying three kids, and another carrying three loaves of bread, and another carrying a bottle of wine:
- 1Sa 10:4 And they will salute thee, and give thee two *loaves* of bread; which thou shalt receive of their hands.
- 1Sa 10:5 After that thou shalt come to the hill of God, where *is* the garrison of the Philistines: and it shall come to pass, when thou art come thither to the city, that thou shalt meet a company of prophets coming down from the high place with a psaltery, and a tabret, and a pipe, and a harp, before them; and they shall prophesy:
- 1Sa 10:6 And the Spirit of the LORD will come upon thee, and thou shalt prophesy with them, and shalt be turned into another man.
- 1Sa 10:7 And let it be, when these signs are come unto thee, *that* thou do as occasion serve thee; for God *is* with thee.
- 1Sa 10:8 And thou shalt go down before me to Gilgal; and, behold, I will come down unto thee, to offer burnt offerings, *and* to sacrifice sacrifices of peace offerings: seven days shalt thou tarry, till I come to thee, and shew thee what thou shalt do.
- 1Sa 10:9 And it was *so*, that when he had turned his back to go from Samuel, God gave him another heart: and all those signs came to pass that day.
- 1Sa 10:10 And when they came thither to the hill, behold, a company of prophets met him; and the Spirit of God came upon him, and he prophesied among them.
- 1Sa 10:11 And it came to pass, when all that knew him beforetime saw that, behold, he prophesied among the prophets, then the people said one to another, What *is* this *that* is come unto the son of Kish? *Is* Saul also among the prophets?
- 1Sa 10:12 And one of the same place answered and said, But who *is* their father? Therefore it became a proverb, *Is* Saul also among the prophets?
- 1Sa 10:13 And when he had made an end of prophesying, he came to the high place.
- 1Sa 10:14 And Saul's uncle said unto him and to his servant, Whither went ye? And he said, To seek the asses: and when we saw that *they were* nowhere, we came to Samuel.
- 1Sa 10:15 And Saul's uncle said, Tell me, I pray thee, what Samuel said unto you.
- 1Sa 10:16 And Saul said unto his uncle, He told us plainly that the asses were found. But of the matter of the kingdom, whereof Samuel spake, he told him not.

Saul Proclaimed King

- 1Sa 10:17 And Samuel called the people together unto the LORD to Mizpeh;
- 1Sa 10:18 And said unto the children of Israel, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I brought up Israel out of Egypt, and delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians, and out of the hand of all kingdoms, *and* of them that oppressed you:
- 1Sa 10:19 And ye have this day rejected your God, who himself saved you out of all your adversities and your tribulations; and ye have said unto him, *Nay*, but set a king over us. Now therefore present yourselves before the LORD by your tribes, and by your thousands.

- 1Sa 10:20 And when Samuel had caused all the tribes of Israel to come near, the tribe of Benjamin was taken.
- 1Sa 10:21 When he had caused the tribe of Benjamin to come near by their families, the family of Matri was taken, and Saul the son of Kish was taken: and when they sought him, he could not be found.
- 1Sa 10:22 Therefore they enquired of the LORD further, if the man should yet come thither. And the LORD answered, Behold, he hath hid himself among the stuff.
- 1Sa 10:23 And they ran and fetched him thence: and when he stood among the people, he was higher than any of the people from his shoulders and upward.
- 1Sa 10:24 And Samuel said to all the people, See ye him whom the LORD hath chosen, that *there is* none like him among all the people? And all the people shouted, and said, God save the king.
- 1Sa 10:25 Then Samuel told the people the manner of the kingdom, and wrote *it* in a book, and laid *it* up before the LORD. And Samuel sent all the people away, every man to his house.
- 1Sa 10:26 And Saul also went home to Gibeah; and there went with him a band of men, whose hearts God had touched.
- 1Sa 10:27 But the children of Belial said, How shall this man save us? And they despised him, and brought him no presents. But he held his peace.

Wednesday – July 10th

1. What is this ‘peaceable fruit’ which reveals that genuine sanctification is taking place in the life?

➤ Galatians 5:22-23

NOTE : ‘Self-denial, self-sacrifice, benevolence, kindness, love, patience, fortitude, and Christian trust are the daily fruits borne by those who are truly connected with God. Their acts may not be published to the world, but they themselves are daily wrestling with evil, and gaining precious victories over temptation and wrong. Solemn vows are renewed, and kept through the strength gained by earnest prayer and constant watching thereunto. The ardent enthusiast does not discern the struggles of these silent workers; but the eye of Him who sees the secrets of the heart, notices and regards with approval every effort put forth in lowliness and meekness. It requires the testing time to reveal the pure gold of love and faith in the character. When trials and perplexities come upon the church, then the steadfast zeal and warm affections of Christ’s true followers are developed.’ — *The Sanctified Life*, page 11.

2. What fruit will be especially of value?

➤ Psalm 37:11 —

➤ Psalm 76:8-9 —

➤ Psalm 149:4 —

NOTE : ‘The most precious fruit of sanctification is the grace of meekness. When this grace presides in the soul, the disposition is moulded by its influence. There is a continual waiting upon God and a submission of the will to His. The understanding grasps every divine truth, and the will bows to every divine precept, without doubting or murmuring. True meekness softens and subdues the heart and gives the mind a fitness for the engrafted word. It brings the thoughts into obedience to Jesus Christ. It opens the heart to the word of God, as Lydia’s was opened. It places us with Mary, as learners at the feet of Jesus. “The meek will He guide in judgment: and the meek will He teach his way” (Psalm 25:9).’ — *The Sanctified Life*, page 14.

3. Heaven’s Hotline

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Last Day Events***Wednesday, July 10th, 2024******Last Day Events, Chapter 7, pp. 202*****“The Shaking”**

“The Latter Rain”**July 10th****The Church May Appear as About to Fall**

Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there comes a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

2 Thessalonians 2:3

The shaking of God blows away multitudes like dry leaves.—*Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, p. 89 (1876).*

Chaff like a cloud will be borne away on the wind, even from places where we see only floors of rich wheat.—*Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, p. 81 (1882).*

Soon God's people will be tested by fiery trials, and the great proportion of those who now appear to be genuine and true will prove to be base metal. . . .

When the religion of Christ is most held in contempt, when His law is most despised, then should our zeal be the warmest and our courage and firmness the most unflinching. To stand in defense of truth and righteousness when the majority forsake us, to fight the battles of the Lord when champions are few—this will be our test. At this time we must gather warmth from the coldness of others, courage from their cowardice, and loyalty from their treason.—*Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, p. 136 (1882).*

The church may appear as about to fall, but it does not fall. It remains, while the sinners in Zion will be sifted out—the chaff separated from the precious wheat. This is a terrible ordeal, but nevertheless it must take place.—*Selected Messages, Book 2, p. 380 (1886).*

As the storm approaches, a large class who have professed faith in the third angel's message, but have not been sanctified through obedience to the truth, abandon their position and join the ranks of the opposition.—*The Great Controversy, p. 608 (1911).*

Daily Scripture**Wednesday, July 10th, 2024****1st Samuel Chapter 11****Saul Defeats the Ammonites**

- 1Sa 11:1 Then Nahash the Ammonite came up, and encamped against Jabeshgilead: and all the men of Jabesh said unto Nahash, Make a covenant with us, and we will serve thee.
- 1Sa 11:2 And Nahash the Ammonite answered them, On this *condition* will I make *a covenant* with you, that I may thrust out all your right eyes, and lay it *for* a reproach upon all Israel.
- 1Sa 11:3 And the elders of Jabesh said unto him, Give us seven days' respite, that we may send messengers unto all the coasts of Israel: and then, if *there be* no man to save us, we will come out to thee.
- 1Sa 11:4 Then came the messengers to Gibeah of Saul, and told the tidings in the ears of the people: and all the people lifted up their voices, and wept.
- 1Sa 11:5 And, behold, Saul came after the herd out of the field; and Saul said, What *ails* the people that they weep? And they told him the tidings of the men of Jabesh.
- 1Sa 11:6 And the Spirit of God came upon Saul when he heard those tidings, and his anger was kindled greatly.
- 1Sa 11:7 And he took a yoke of oxen, and hewed them in pieces, and sent *them* throughout all the coasts of Israel by the hands of messengers, saying, Whosoever cometh not forth after Saul and after Samuel, so shall it be done unto his oxen. And the fear of the LORD fell on the people, and they came out with one consent.
- 1Sa 11:8 And when he numbered them in Bezek, the children of Israel were three hundred thousand, and the men of Judah thirty thousand.
- 1Sa 11:9 And they said unto the messengers that came, Thus shall ye say unto the men of Jabeshgilead, Tomorrow, by *that time* the sun be hot, ye shall have help. And the messengers came and shewed *it* to the men of Jabesh; and they were glad.
- 1Sa 11:10 Therefore the men of Jabesh said, Tomorrow we will come out unto you, and ye shall do with us all that seems good unto you.
- 1Sa 11:11 And it was *so* on the morrow, that Saul put the people in three companies; and they came into the midst of the host in the morning watch, and slew the Ammonites until the heat of the day: and it came to pass, that they which remained were scattered, so that two of them were not left together.

The Kingdom Is Renewed

- 1Sa 11:12 And the people said unto Samuel, Who *is* he that said, Shall Saul reign over us? bring the men, that we may put them to death.
- 1Sa 11:13 And Saul said, There shall not a man be put to death this day: for today the LORD hath wrought salvation in Israel.
- 1Sa 11:14 Then said Samuel to the people, Come, and let us go to Gilgal, and renew the kingdom there.
- 1Sa 11:15 And all the people went to Gilgal; and there they made Saul king before the LORD in Gilgal; and there they sacrificed sacrifices of peace offerings before the LORD; and there Saul and all the men of Israel rejoiced greatly.

Thursday – July 11th

1. When Christ comes, what will He be looking for?

- 1 Peter 1:7 —
- Revelation 14:14-16 —
- Mark 4:29 —

NOTE : ‘There can be no growth or fruitfulness in the life that is centred in self. If you have accepted Christ as a personal Saviour, you are to forget yourself, and try to help others. Talk of the love of Christ, tell of His goodness. Do every duty that presents itself. Carry the burden of souls upon your heart, and by every means in your power seek to save the lost. As you receive the Spirit of Christ, the Spirit of unselfish love and labour for others, you will grow and bring forth fruit. The graces of the Spirit will ripen in your character. Your faith will increase, your convictions deepen, your love be made perfect. More and more you will reflect the likeness of Christ in all that is pure, noble, and lovely. “*The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance.*” [Galatians 5:22, 23] This fruit can never perish, but will produce after its kind a harvest unto eternal life. “When the fruit is brought forth, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest is come.” Christ is waiting with longing desire for the manifestation of Himself in His church. When the character of Christ shall be perfectly reproduced in His people, then He will come to claim them as His own.’ — *Christ’s Object Lessons*, pages 67-69.

2. How was the holiness of Christ’s life regarded by the Jews? Matthew 11:19 John 1:4-5, 10-11



NOTE : ‘Our Saviour was the light of the world, but the world knew Him not. He was constantly employed in works of mercy, shedding light upon the pathway of all; yet He did not call upon those with whom He mingled to behold His unexampled virtue, His self-denial, and benevolence. The Jews did not admire such a life. They considered His religion worthless, because it did not accord with their standard of piety. They decided that Christ was not religious in spirit or character; for their religion consisted in display, in praying publicly, and in doing works of charity for effect. They trumpeted their good deeds, as do those who claim sanctification. They would have all understand that they are without sin. But the whole life of Christ was in direct contrast to this. He sought neither gain nor honour. His wonderful acts of healing were performed in as quiet a manner as possible, although He could not restrain the enthusiasm of those who were the recipients of His great blessings. Humility and meekness characterised His life. And it was because of His lowly walk and unassuming manners, which were in such marked contrast to their own, that the Pharisees would not accept Him.’ — *The Sanctified Life*, page 14.

3. Heaven’s Hotline



Last Day Events***Thursday, July 11th, 2024******Last Day Events, Chapter 7, pp. 203*****“The Shaking”**

“The Latter Rain”**July 11th****God's Faithful Will Be Revealed**

And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

Joshua 24:15

The Lord has faithful servants who in the shaking, testing time will be disclosed to view. There are precious ones now hidden who have not bowed the knee to Baal. They have not had the light which has been shining in a concentrated blaze upon you. But it may be under a rough and uninviting exterior the pure brightness of a genuine Christian character will be revealed. In the daytime we look toward heaven but do not see the stars. They are there, fixed in the firmament, but the eye cannot distinguish them. In the night we behold their genuine lustre.—*Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, p. 80, 81 (1882).*

On every occasion that persecution takes place, the witnesses make decisions, either for Christ or against Him. Those who show sympathy for the men wrongly condemned, who are not bitter against them, show their attachment for Christ.—*Signs of the Times, Feb. 20, 1901.*

Let opposition arise, let bigotry and intolerance again bear sway, let persecution be kindled, and the half-hearted and hypocritical will waver and yield the faith; but the true Christian will stand firm as a rock, his faith stronger, his hope brighter than in days of prosperity.—*The Great Controversy, p. 602 (1911).*

*Daily Scripture**Thursday, July 11th, 2024***1st Samuel Chapter 12****Samuel's Farewell Address**

- 1Sa 12:1 And Samuel said unto all Israel, Behold, I have hearkened unto your voice in all that ye said unto me, and have made a king over you.
- 1Sa 12:2 And now, behold, the king walks before you: and I am old and grey-headed; and, behold, my sons *are* with you: and I have walked before you from my childhood unto this day.
- 1Sa 12:3 Behold, here I *am*: witness against me before the LORD, and before his anointed: whose ox have I taken? or whose ass have I taken? or whom have I defrauded? whom have I oppressed? or of whose hand have I received *any* bribe to blind mine eyes therewith? and I will restore it you.
- 1Sa 12:4 And they said, Thou hast not defrauded us, nor oppressed us, neither hast thou taken ought of any man's hand.
- 1Sa 12:5 And he said unto them, The LORD *is* witness against you, and his anointed *is* witness this day, that ye have not found ought in my hand. And they answered, *He is* witness.
- 1Sa 12:6 And Samuel said unto the people, *It is* the LORD that advanced Moses and Aaron, and that brought your fathers up out of the land of Egypt.
- 1Sa 12:7 Now therefore stand still, that I may reason with you before the LORD of all the righteous acts of the LORD, which he did to you and to your fathers.
- 1Sa 12:8 When Jacob was come into Egypt, and your fathers cried unto the LORD, then the LORD sent Moses and Aaron, which brought forth your fathers out of Egypt, and made them dwell in this place.
- 1Sa 12:9 And when they forgot the LORD their God, he sold them into the hand of Sisera, captain of the host of Hazor, and into the hand of the Philistines, and into the hand of the king of Moab, and they fought against them.
- 1Sa 12:10 And they cried unto the LORD, and said, We have sinned, because we have forsaken the LORD, and have served Baalim and Ashtaroth: but now deliver us out of the hand of our enemies, and we will serve thee.
- 1Sa 12:11 And the LORD sent Jerubbaal, and Bedan, and Jephthah, and Samuel, and delivered you out of the hand of your enemies on every side, and ye dwelled safe.
- 1Sa 12:12 And when ye saw that Nahash the king of the children of Ammon came against you, ye said unto me, Nay; but a king shall reign over us: when the LORD your God *was* your king.
- 1Sa 12:13 Now therefore behold the king whom ye have chosen, *and* whom ye have desired! and, behold, the LORD hath set a king over you.
- 1Sa 12:14 If ye will fear the LORD, and serve him, and obey his voice, and not rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then shall both ye and also the king that reigns over you continue following the LORD your God:
- 1Sa 12:15 But if ye will not obey the voice of the LORD, but rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then shall the hand of the LORD be against you, as *it was* against your fathers.
- 1Sa 12:16 Now therefore stand and see this great thing, which the LORD will do before your eyes.
- 1Sa 12:17 *Is it* not wheat harvest to day? I will call unto the LORD, and he shall send thunder and rain; that ye may perceive and see that your wickedness *is* great, which ye have done in the sight of the LORD, in asking you a king.
- 1Sa 12:18 So Samuel called unto the LORD; and the LORD sent thunder and rain that day: and all the people greatly feared the LORD and Samuel.
- 1Sa 12:19 And all the people said unto Samuel, Pray for thy servants unto the LORD thy God, that we die not: for we have added unto all our sins *this* evil, to ask us a king.
- 1Sa 12:20 And Samuel said unto the people, Fear not: ye have done all this wickedness: yet turn not aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart;

- 1Sa 12:21 And turn ye not aside: for *then should ye go* after vain *things*, which cannot profit nor deliver; for they *are* vain.
- 1Sa 12:22 For the LORD will not forsake his people for his great name's sake: because it hath pleased the LORD to make you his people.
- 1Sa 12:23 Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you: but I will teach you the good and the right way:
- 1Sa 12:24 Only fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great *things* he hath done for you.
- 1Sa 12:25 But if ye shall still do wickedly, ye shall be consumed, both ye and your king.

*Preparation Day - July 12th***1. How should God's people expect the world to regard them?**

➤ **John 15:18-20** —

NOTE : 'Those who present the truth for this time should not expect to be received with greater favour than were earlier reformers. The great controversy between truth and error, between Christ and Satan, is to increase in intensity to the close of this world's history. Said Jesus to His disciples: "If you were of the world, the world would love his own: but because you are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his Lord. If they have persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept My saying, they will keep yours also." John 15:19, 20. And on the other hand our Lord declared plainly: "Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets." Luke 6:26. The spirit of the world is no more in harmony with the spirit of Christ today than in earlier times, and those who preach the word of God in its purity will be received with no greater favour now than then. The forms of opposition to the truth may change, the enmity may be less open because it is more subtle; but the same antagonism still exists and will be manifested to the end of time.' —*The Great Controversy*, 143-144.

2. Heaven's Hotline

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Last Day Events***Preparation Day, July 12th, 2024******Last Day Events, Chapter 7, pp. 204*****“The Shaking”**

“The Latter Rain”**July 12th****New Converts Will Take the Places of Those Who Leave****Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.****1 Timothy 2:4**

Some had been shaken out and left by the way. The careless and indifferent, who did not join with those who prized victory and salvation enough to perseveringly plead and agonize for it, did not obtain it, and they were left behind in darkness, and their places were immediately filled by others taking hold of the truth and coming into the ranks.—*Early Writings*, p. 271 (1858).

The broken ranks will be filled up by those represented by Christ as coming in at the eleventh hour. There are many with whom the Spirit of God is striving. The time of God's destructive judgments is the time of mercy for those who [now] have no opportunity to learn what is truth. Tenderly will the Lord look upon them. His heart of mercy is touched, His hand is still stretched out to save, while the door is closed to those who would not enter. Large numbers will be admitted who in these last days hear the truth for the first time.—*Letter 103*, 1903.

Standard after standard was left to trail in the dust as company after company from the Lord's army joined the foe and tribe after tribe from the ranks of the enemy united with the commandment-keeping people of God.—*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 8, p. 41 (1904).

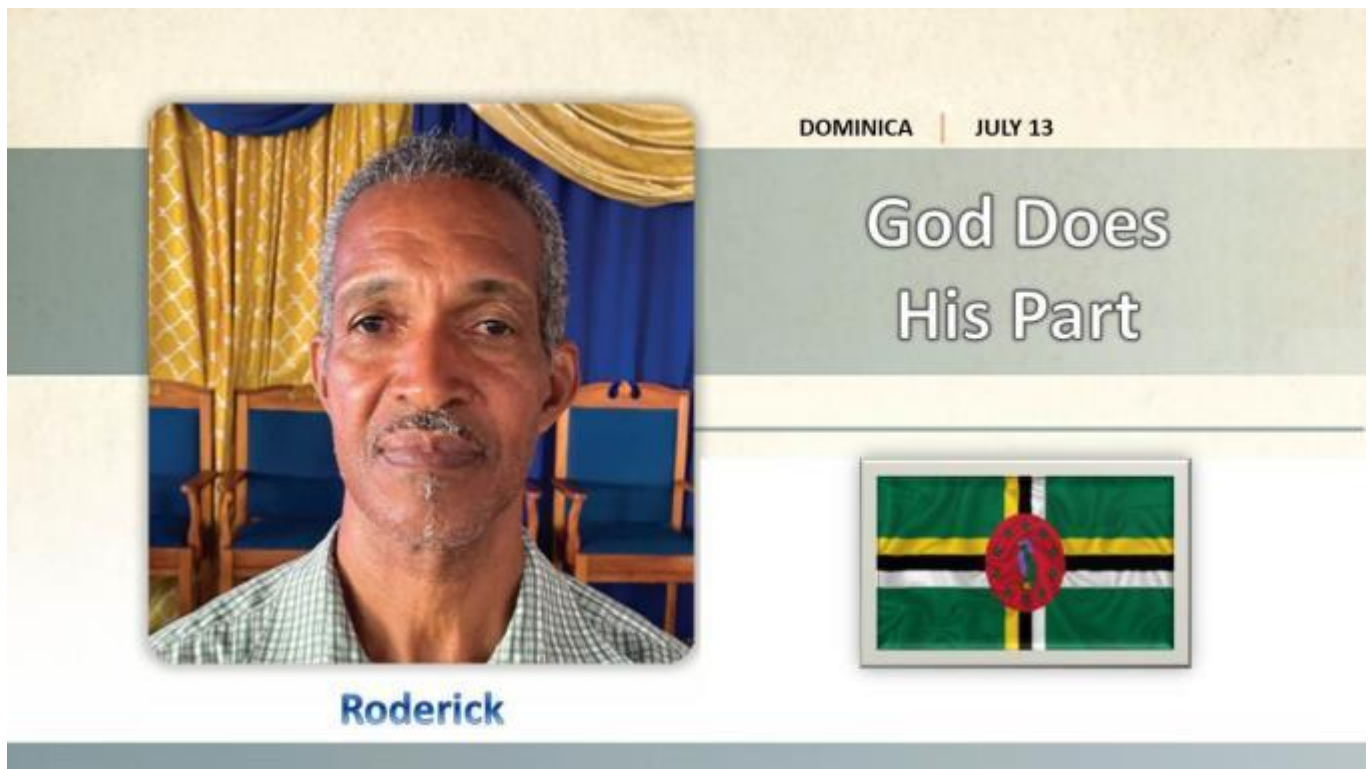
Daily Scripture**Preparation Day, July 12th, 2024****1st Samuel Chapter 13****Saul Fights the Philistines**

- 1Sa 13:1 Saul reigned one year; and when he had reigned two years over Israel,
- 1Sa 13:2 Saul chose him three thousand *men* of Israel; *whereof* two thousand were with Saul in Michmash and in mount Bethel, and a thousand were with Jonathan in Gibeah of Benjamin: and the rest of the people he sent every man to his tent.
- 1Sa 13:3 And Jonathan smote the garrison of the Philistines that *was* in Geba, and the Philistines heard *of it*. And Saul blew the trumpet throughout all the land, saying, Let the Hebrews hear.
- 1Sa 13:4 And all Israel heard say *that* Saul had smitten a garrison of the Philistines, and *that* Israel also was had in abomination with the Philistines. And the people were called together after Saul to Gilgal.
- 1Sa 13:5 And the Philistines gathered themselves together to fight with Israel, thirty thousand chariots, and six thousand horsemen, and people as the sand which *is* on the sea shore in multitude: and they came up, and pitched in Michmash, eastward from Bethaven.
- 1Sa 13:6 When the men of Israel saw that they were in a strait, (for the people were distressed,) then the people did hide themselves in caves, and in thickets, and in rocks, and in high places, and in pits.
- 1Sa 13:7 And *some of* the Hebrews went over Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. As for Saul, he *was* yet in Gilgal, and all the people followed him trembling.

Saul's Unlawful Sacrifice

- 1Sa 13:8 And he tarried seven days, according to the set time that Samuel *had appointed*: but Samuel came not to Gilgal; and the people were scattered from him.
- 1Sa 13:9 And Saul said, Bring hither a burnt offering to me, and peace offerings. And he offered the burnt offering.
- 1Sa 13:10 And it came to pass, that as soon as he had made an end of offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him, that he might salute him.
- 1Sa 13:11 And Samuel said, What hast thou done? And Saul said, Because I saw that the people were scattered from me, and *that* thou came not within the days appointed, and *that* the Philistines gathered themselves together at Michmash;
- 1Sa 13:12 Therefore said I, The Philistines will come down now upon me to Gilgal, and I have not made supplication unto the LORD: I forced myself therefore, and offered a burnt offering.
- 1Sa 13:13 And Samuel said to Saul, Thou hast done foolishly: thou hast not kept the commandment of the LORD thy God, which he commanded thee: for now would the LORD have established thy kingdom upon Israel for ever.
- 1Sa 13:14 But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the LORD hath commanded him *to be* captain over his people, because thou hast not kept *that* which the LORD commanded thee.
- 1Sa 13:15 And Samuel arose, and gat him up from Gilgal unto Gibeah of Benjamin. And Saul numbered the people *that were* present with him, about six hundred men.
- 1Sa 13:16 And Saul, and Jonathan his son, and the people *that were* present with them, abode in Gibeah of Benjamin: but the Philistines encamped in Michmash.
- 1Sa 13:17 And the spoilers came out of the camp of the Philistines in three companies: one company turned unto the way *that leads to* Ophrah, unto the land of Shual:
- 1Sa 13:18 And another company turned the way *to* Bethhoron: and another company turned *to* the way of the border that looks to the valley of Zeboim toward the wilderness.
- 1Sa 13:19 Now there was no smith found throughout all the land of Israel: for the Philistines said, Lest the Hebrews make *them* swords or spears:

- 1Sa 13:20 But all the Israelites went down to the Philistines, to sharpen every man his share, and his coulter, and his axe, and his mattock.
- 1Sa 13:21 Yet they had a file for the mattocks, and for the coulters, and for the forks, and for the axes, and to sharpen the goads.
- 1Sa 13:22 So it came to pass in the day of battle, that there was neither sword nor spear found in the hand of any of the people that *were* with Saul and Jonathan: but with Saul and with Jonathan his son was there found.
- 1Sa 13:23 And the garrison of the Philistines went out to the passage of Michmash.

Adult Mission Story**Preparation Day, July 12th, 2024**

This mission story is about Roderick, the architect of a new school on the Caribbean island nation of Dominica that will be constructed with assistance from this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering. The story started in 1984.

It was a big day when Roderick received a scholarship to study at a university in France.

He packed his bags, said good-bye to his single mother and two brothers, and moved halfway across the globe from his home on the Caribbean island nation of Dominica.

But as Roderick settled into his classes in France, he sensed that something wasn't quite right. Something was missing.

Trying to fill that hole, he went to church the next Sunday. But he wasn't satisfied. He returned to church the next Sunday, but he still wasn't satisfied. Then it struck him. Even though his mother had taught him to worship on Sunday, he was convinced in his heart that the true Sabbath was on Saturday.

Before arriving in France, Roderick had loved reading the Bible. He hadn't read the Bible to know God. He and his high school friends had enjoyed debating the Bible, and he had read the Bible to win the debates. As he had read, he had been persuaded that God had set aside the seventh day of the week as the Sabbath. But he had never acted on that knowledge.

Now in France, Roderick wondered if he could find anyone who kept the seventh-day Sabbath. He remembered that Seventh-day Adventists kept the Sabbath in Dominica, and he asked his classmates if Adventists also lived in France. A classmate introduced him to an Adventist from Dominica, and Roderick started going to church with the man. Only a month had passed since Roderick had arrived in France.

Roderick didn't tell his mother or brothers that he was going to the Seventh-day Adventist church. But he wondered what they would think. Would his mother be upset? Would his two brothers think less of him? He didn't have long to wait.

Two months after he started worshipping on Sabbath, a letter arrived in the mail from his mother.

Roderick opened the envelope and pulled out the letter. His mother had written that she and Roderick's two brothers were taking Bible studies with Adventists back in Dominica.

Roderick couldn't believe his eyes. Could it be that he and his family were following a similar path to God even though they were living a world apart?

He wrote back, "I'm going to a Seventh-day Adventist church every Sabbath."

His mother and brothers were so surprised when they received his letter.

Two months later, Roderick's mother and brothers gave their hearts to Jesus in baptism in Dominica. Two months after that, Roderick was baptized in France.

Roderick had been living in France for only nine months, and his life had completely changed. In that same time period, the lives of his mother and brothers had also completely changed back in Dominica. As the apostle Paul said, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new" ([2 Corinthians 5:17, NKJV](#)).

When Roderick returned to Dominica for his first vacation the next year, he worshipped with his mother and brothers at the Seventh-day Adventist church on Sabbath. The family praised God for how He was working in their lives.

"We recognized that God was leading me in France at the same time that He was leading my family in Dominica," Roderick said. "It was amazing to see God's hands at work. I never told my family that I was going to church on Sabbath, but it turned out that we all were searching for God's will. God works in mysterious ways."

Thank you for planning a generous Thirteenth Sabbath Offering on September 28 to help Ebenezer Seventh-day Adventist Primary School move into a much-needed larger building in Dominica. Roderick is the building's architect, and he provided his services free of charge. He is looking forward to seeing how God will bless the project. "Our timing is not God's timing," he said. "All God requires from us is faithfulness. When we are faithful and obedient, God does His part."

By Andrew McChesney

LESSON 3

“IT WAS IMPUTED TO HIM FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS”

July 13 — July 19

📖 MEMORY VERSE : What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? [Romans 6:1-2]

? STUDY HELP : ✓ Faith & Works, pages 47-50

📖 SCRIPTURE : James 2:18-26

🎯 LESSON AIM : To study what the Bible means by imputed righteousness.

🗣 INTRODUCTION : ‘Hear the words of Jesus: I will blot out his transgressions. I will cover his sins. The filthy garments are removed; for Christ says, “I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee” (verse 4). The iniquity is transferred to the innocent, the pure, the holy Son of God; and man, all undeserving, stands before the Lord cleansed from all unrighteousness, and clothed with the imputed righteousness of Christ. Oh, what a change of raiment is this!’ — *That I May Know Him*, page 108

Sabbath – July 13th

1. How does Paul explain the imputed righteousness of Christ?

➤ **Romans 4:20-22**

NOTE : ‘The church must be as was Abraham, who “staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; and being fully persuaded, that what He had promised He was able also to perform. And therefore, it was imputed to him for righteousness. Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him, but for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on Him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.” “For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.”’ — Signs of the Times, September 17, 1894.

2. Heaven’s Hotline

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E. G. W. Study Help 1*Sabbath, July 13th, 2024***Faith and Works
Chapter 5, pages 47-50****Faith and Works**

MORNING TALK AT BASEL, SWITZERLAND, SEPTEMBER 17, 1885. PUBLISHED IN SIGNS OF THE TIMES, JUNE 16, 1890.

"Without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him" (Hebrews 11:6). There are many in the Christian world who claim that all that is necessary to salvation is to have faith; works are nothing, faith is the only essential. But God's Word tells us that faith without works is dead, being alone. Many refuse to obey God's commandments, yet they make a great deal of faith. But faith must have a foundation. {FW 47.1}

God's promises are all made upon conditions. If we do His will, if we walk in truth, then we may ask what we will, and it shall be done unto us. While we earnestly endeavour to be obedient, God will hear our petitions; but He will not bless us in disobedience. If we choose to disobey His commandments, we may cry, "Faith, faith, only have faith," and the response will come back from the sure Word of God, "Faith without works is dead" (James 2:20). Such faith will only be as sounding brass and as a tinkling cymbal. In order to have the benefits of God's grace we must do our part; we must faithfully work and bring forth fruits meet for repentance. {FW 47.2}

We are workers together with God. You are not to sit in indolence, waiting for some great occasion, in order to do a great work for the Master. You are not to neglect the duty that lies directly in your pathway, but you are to improve the little opportunities that open around you. . . . {FW 47.3}

To Wrestle, Labour, and Strive

We are to do all that we can do on our part to fight the good fight of faith. We are to wrestle, to labour, to strive, to agonize to enter in at the strait gate. We are to set the Lord ever before us. With clean hands, with pure hearts, we are to seek to honour God in all our ways. Help has been provided for us in Him who is mighty to save. The spirit of truth and light will quicken and renew us by its mysterious workings; for all our spiritual improvement comes from God, not from ourselves. The true worker will have divine power to aid him, but the idler will not be sustained by the Spirit of God. {FW 48.1}

In one way we are thrown upon our own energies; we are to strive earnestly to be zealous and to repent, to cleanse our hands and purify our hearts from every defilement; we are to reach the highest standard, believing that God will help us in our efforts. We must seek if we would find, and seek in faith; we must knock, that the door may be opened unto us. The Bible teaches that everything regarding our salvation depends upon our own course of action. If we perish, the responsibility will rest wholly upon ourselves. If provision has been made, and if we accept God's terms, we may lay hold on eternal life. We must come to Christ in faith, we must be diligent to make our calling and election sure. {FW 48.2}

The forgiveness of sin is promised to him who repents and believes; the crown of life will be the reward of him who is faithful to the end. We may grow in grace by improving through the grace we already have. We are to keep ourselves unspotted from the world if we would be found blameless in the day of God. Faith and works go hand in hand; they act harmoniously in the work of overcoming. Works without faith are dead, and faith without works is dead. Works will never save us; it is the merit of Christ that will avail in our behalf. Through faith in Him, Christ will make all our imperfect efforts acceptable to God. The faith we are required to have is not a do-nothing faith;

saving faith is that which works by love and purifies the soul. He who will lift up holy hands to God without wrath and doubting will walk intelligently in the way of God's commandments. {FW 48.3}

If we are to have pardon for our sins, we must first have a realization of what sin is, that we may repent and bring forth fruits meet for repentance. We must have a solid foundation for our faith; it must be founded on the Word of God, and its results will be seen in obedience to God's expressed will. Says the apostle, "Without . . . [holiness] no man shall see the Lord" (Hebrews 12:14). {FW 49.1}

Faith and works will keep us evenly balanced and make us successful in the work of perfecting Christian character. Jesus says, "Not everyone that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter in the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 7:21). Speaking of temporal food, the apostle said, "For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat" (2 Thessalonians 3:10). The same rule applies to our spiritual nourishment; if any would have the bread of eternal life, let him make efforts to obtain it. {FW 49.2}

We are living in an important and interesting period of this earth's history. We need more faith than we have yet had; we need a firmer hold from above. Satan is working with all power to obtain the victory over us, for he knows that he has but a short time in which to work. Paul had fear and trembling in working out his salvation; and should not we fear lest a promise being left us, we should any of us seem to come short of it, and prove ourselves unworthy of eternal life? We should watch unto prayer, strive with agonizing effort to enter in at the strait gate. {FW 49.3}

Jesus Makes Up for Our Deficiency

There is no excuse for sin or for indolence. Jesus has led the way, and He wishes us to follow in His steps. He has suffered, He has sacrificed as none of us can, that He might bring salvation within our reach. We need not be discouraged. Jesus came to our world to bring divine power to man, that through His grace, we might be transformed into His likeness. {FW 49.4}

When it is in the heart to obey God, when efforts are put forth to this end, Jesus accepts this disposition and effort as man's best service, and He makes up for the deficiency with His own divine merit. But He will not accept those who claim to have faith in Him and yet are disloyal to His Father's commandment. We hear a great deal about faith, but we need to hear a great deal more about works. Many are deceiving their own souls by living an easy-going, accommodating, crossless religion. {FW 50.1}

But Jesus says, "If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me" (Matthew 16:24). {FW 50.2}

Last Day Events***Sabbath, July 13th, 2024******Last Day Events, Chapter 7, pp. 205*****“The Shaking”**

“The Latter Rain”**July 13th****The Work of the Spirit Likened to Rain**

Ask ye of the LORD rain in the time of the latter rain; so the LORD shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of rain, to everyone grass in the field.

Zechariah 10:1

"He will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain." In the East the former rain falls at the sowing time. It is necessary in order that the seed may germinate. Under the influence of the fertilizing showers the tender shoot springs up. The latter rain, falling near the close of the season, ripens the grain and prepares it for the sickle. The Lord employs these operations of nature to represent the work of the Holy Spirit. [See Zechariah 10:1; Hosea 6:3; Joel 2:23, 28.]

As the dew and the rain are given first to cause the seed to germinate, and then to ripen the harvest, so the Holy Spirit is given to carry forward, from one stage to another, the process of spiritual growth. The ripening of the grain represents the completion of the work of God's grace in the soul. By the power of the Holy Spirit the moral image of God is to be perfected in the character. We are to be wholly transformed into the likeness of Christ.

The latter rain, ripening earth's harvest, represents the spiritual grace that prepares the church for the coming of the Son of man. But unless the former rain has fallen, there will be no life; the green blade will not spring up. Unless the early showers have done their work, the latter rain can bring no seed to perfection.—*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 506 (1897).

A. The Historical Application To the Church as a Whole.

1st Samuel Chapter 14

Jonathan Defeats the Philistines

- 1Sa 14:1 Now it came to pass upon a day, that Jonathan the son of Saul said unto the young man that bare his armour, Come, and let us go over to the Philistines' garrison, that *is* on the other side. But he told not his father.
- 1Sa 14:2 And Saul tarried in the uttermost part of Gibeah under a pomegranate tree which *is* in Migron: and the people that *were* with him *were* about six hundred men;
- 1Sa 14:3 And Ahiah, the son of Ahitub, Ichabod's brother, the son of Phinehas, the son of Eli, the LORD'S priest in Shiloh, wearing an ephod. And the people knew not that Jonathan was gone.
- 1Sa 14:4 And between the passages, by which Jonathan sought to go over unto the Philistines' garrison, *there was* a sharp rock on the one side, and a sharp rock on the other side: and the name of the one *was* Bozez, and the name of the other Seneh.
- 1Sa 14:5 The forefront of the one *was* situate northward over against Michmash, and the other southward over against Gibeah.
- 1Sa 14:6 And Jonathan said to the young man that bare his armour, Come, and let us go over unto the garrison of these uncircumcised: it may be that the LORD will work for us: for *there is* no restraint to the LORD to save by many or by few.
- 1Sa 14:7 And his armour bearer said unto him, Do all that *is* in thine heart: turn thee; behold, I *am* with thee according to thy heart.
- 1Sa 14:8 Then said Jonathan, Behold, we will pass over unto *these* men, and we will discover ourselves unto them.
- 1Sa 14:9 If they say thus unto us, Tarry until we come to you; then we will stand still in our place, and will not go up unto them.
- 1Sa 14:10 But if they say thus, Come up unto us; then we will go up: for the LORD hath delivered them into our hand: and this *shall be* a sign unto us.
- 1Sa 14:11 And both of them discovered themselves unto the garrison of the Philistines: and the Philistines said, Behold, the Hebrews come forth out of the holes where they had hid themselves.
- 1Sa 14:12 And the men of the garrison answered Jonathan and his armour bearer, and said, Come up to us, and we will shew you a thing. And Jonathan said unto his armour bearer, Come up after me: for the LORD hath delivered them into the hand of Israel.
- 1Sa 14:13 And Jonathan climbed up upon his hands and upon his feet, and his armour bearer after him: and they fell before Jonathan; and his armour bearer slew after him.
- 1Sa 14:14 And that first slaughter, which Jonathan and his armour bearer made, was about twenty men, within as it were an half acre of land, *which* a yoke of oxen might plow.
- 1Sa 14:15 And there was trembling in the host, in the field, and among all the people: the garrison, and the spoilers, they also trembled, and the earth quaked: so it was a very great trembling.
- 1Sa 14:16 And the watchmen of Saul in Gibeah of Benjamin looked; and, behold, the multitude melted away, and they went on beating down *one another*.
- 1Sa 14:17 Then said Saul unto the people that *were* with him, Number now, and see who is gone from us. And when they had numbered, behold, Jonathan and his armour bearer *were not there*.
- 1Sa 14:18 And Saul said unto Ahiah, Bring hither the ark of God. For the ark of God was at that time with the children of Israel.
- 1Sa 14:19 And it came to pass, while Saul talked unto the priest, that the noise that *was* in the host of the Philistines went on and increased: and Saul said unto the priest, Withdraw thine hand.
- 1Sa 14:20 And Saul and all the people that *were* with him assembled themselves, and they came to the battle: and, behold, every man's sword was against his fellow, *and there was* a very great discomfiture.

- 1Sa 14:21 Moreover the Hebrews *that* were with the Philistines before that time, which went up with them into the camp *from the country* round about, even they also *turned* to be with the Israelites that *were* with Saul and Jonathan.
- 1Sa 14:22 Likewise all the men of Israel which had hid themselves in mount Ephraim, *when* they heard that the Philistines fled, even they also followed hard after them in the battle.
- 1Sa 14:23 So the LORD saved Israel that day: and the battle passed over unto Bethaven.

Saul's Rash Vow

- 1Sa 14:24 And the men of Israel were distressed that day: for Saul had adjured the people, saying, Cursed *be* the man that eats *any* food until evening, that I may be avenged on mine enemies. So none of the people tasted *any* food.
- 1Sa 14:25 And all *they of* the land came to a wood; and there was honey upon the ground.
- 1Sa 14:26 And when the people were come into the wood, behold, the honey dropped; but no man put his hand to his mouth: for the people feared the oath.
- 1Sa 14:27 But Jonathan heard not when his father charged the people with the oath: wherefore he put forth the end of the rod that *was* in his hand, and dipped it in an honeycomb, and put his hand to his mouth; and his eyes were enlightened.
- 1Sa 14:28 Then answered one of the people, and said, Thy father straitly charged the people with an oath, saying, Cursed *be* the man that eats *any* food this day. And the people were faint.
- 1Sa 14:29 Then said Jonathan, My father hath troubled the land: see, I pray you, how mine eyes have been enlightened, because I tasted a little of this honey.
- 1Sa 14:30 How much more, if haply the people had eaten freely to day of the spoil of their enemies which they found? for had there not been now a much greater slaughter among the Philistines?
- 1Sa 14:31 And they smote the Philistines that day from Michmash to Aijalon: and the people were very faint.
- 1Sa 14:32 And the people flew upon the spoil, and took sheep, and oxen, and calves, and slew *them* on the ground: and the people did eat *them* with the blood.
- 1Sa 14:33 Then they told Saul, saying, Behold, the people sin against the LORD, in that they eat with the blood. And he said, Ye have transgressed: roll a great stone unto me this day.
- 1Sa 14:34 And Saul said, Disperse yourselves among the people, and say unto them, Bring me hither every man his ox, and every man his sheep, and slay *them* here, and eat; and sin not against the LORD in eating with the blood. And all the people brought every man his ox with him that night, and slew *them* there.
- 1Sa 14:35 And Saul built an altar unto the LORD: the same was the first altar that he built unto the LORD.
- 1Sa 14:36 And Saul said, Let us go down after the Philistines by night, and spoil them until the morning light, and let us not leave a man of them. And they said, Do whatsoever seems good unto thee. Then said the priest, Let us draw near hither unto God.
- 1Sa 14:37 And Saul asked counsel of God, Shall I go down after the Philistines? wilt thou deliver them into the hand of Israel? But he answered him not that day.
- 1Sa 14:38 And Saul said, Draw ye near hither, all the chief of the people: and know and see wherein this sin hath been this day.
- 1Sa 14:39 For, *as* the LORD lives, which saves Israel, though it be in Jonathan my son, he shall surely die. But *there was* not a man among all the people *that* answered him.
- 1Sa 14:40 Then said he unto all Israel, Be ye on one side, and I and Jonathan my son will be on the other side. And the people said unto Saul, Do what seems good unto thee.
- 1Sa 14:41 Therefore Saul said unto the LORD God of Israel, Give a perfect *lot*. And Saul and Jonathan were taken: but the people escaped.
- 1Sa 14:42 And Saul said, Cast *lots* between me and Jonathan my son. And Jonathan was taken.
- 1Sa 14:43 Then Saul said to Jonathan, Tell me what thou hast done. And Jonathan told him, and said, I did but taste a little honey with the end of the rod that *was* in mine hand, *and*, lo, I must die.
- 1Sa 14:44 And Saul answered, God do so and more also: for thou shalt surely die, Jonathan.
- 1Sa 14:45 And the people said unto Saul, Shall Jonathan die, who hath wrought this great salvation in Israel? God forbid: *as* the LORD lives, there shall not one hair of his head fall to the ground; for he hath wrought with God this day. So the people rescued Jonathan, that he died not.

1Sa 14:46 Then Saul went up from following the Philistines: and the Philistines went to their own place.

Saul Fights Israel's Enemies

1Sa 14:47 So Saul took the kingdom over Israel, and fought against all his enemies on every side, against Moab, and against the children of Ammon, and against Edom, and against the kings of Zobah, and against the Philistines: and whithersoever he turned himself, he vexed *them*.

1Sa 14:48 And he gathered an host, and smote the Amalekites, and delivered Israel out of the hands of them that spoiled them.

1Sa 14:49 Now the sons of Saul were Jonathan, and Ishui, and Melchishua: and the names of his two daughters *were these*; the name of the firstborn Merab, and the name of the younger Michal:

1Sa 14:50 And the name of Saul's wife *was* Ahinoam, the daughter of Ahimaaz: and the name of the captain of his host *was* Abner, the son of Ner, Saul's uncle.

1Sa 14:51 And Kish *was* the father of Saul; and Ner the father of Abner *was* the son of Abiel.

1Sa 14:52 And there was sore war against the Philistines all the days of Saul: and when Saul saw any strong man, or any valiant man, he took him unto him.

*Children's Mission Story**Sabbath, July 13th, 2024*

Eight-year-old Hickel darted across the grass on a hot Monday afternoon in Costa Rica.

School was out, and he was playing soccer with his 8-year-old friend, Royden.

The soft green grass of the churchyard felt good under his bare feet.

Then Hickel saw an opening, and he lunged for the ball. Raising his leg, he kicked the ball with all his might.

Suddenly, a sharp pain pierced the back of his foot.

Lifting his leg, he peered under his foot. A dark-brown snake with white stripes was dangling from his heel.

Hickel's eyes widened with horror, and he screamed, "Aaaaaaaaah!"

At that moment, the snake let go of his foot and slithered off into the grass.

Hickel's foot hurt, but he ran home as fast as he could. He was scared.

"Mother!" he cried. "A snake bit me!"

Mother heard his cries and ran out of the house. She was scared, too. She saw the two marks left by the snake's fangs on his heel.

Mother frantically called Father on the phone. Father came home from work and took the boy to the clinic. The doctor pulled out a syringe and gave Hickel an injection. Then he looked at the boy with concern.

“Do you feel all right?” he asked.

Hickel didn’t look well. He didn’t look well because he didn’t feel well.

The doctor knew what to do. He handed a plastic bag to the boy.

Hickel quickly put the bag over his mouth.

Blech!

The boy vomited his lunch of rice and boiled green bananas into the bag.

Thump!

Hickel fainted and fell to the floor.

No one knew what kind of snake had bitten the boy. Was it dangerous? Was Hickel’s life in danger?

People ran to the churchyard to look for the snake. After a short search, the snake was found in the grass behind a small shed that served as the church’s kitchen.

“It’s a baby velvet snake!” someone called out.

The velvet snake is the most poisonous snake in Costa Rica.

Someone killed the snake and took it to the doctor.

This was a serious emergency. The doctor called an ambulance.

A short time later, the ambulance was rushing Hickel from the clinic to the nearest city hospital. It was dark when Hickel arrived two hours later in the city of Limón.

It was scary being in the hospital. It was scary having a big, swollen foot. Hickel was scared, and he asked Mother to pray to God for help.

Mother and Hickel closed their eyes.

“God, please heal Hickel’s foot,” Mother prayed. “Help him to leave the hospital soon.”

Then she told the boy to have faith that God was with him.

Hickel believed.

On his third day in the hospital, Hickel received a clean bill of health and was sent home. He was very happy! He knew that God had heard Mother’s prayer and healed him.

Back at home, the whole town heard about Hickel’s snakebite and his astonishing recovery. Everyone was amazed to see the healthy and happy boy.

“It is a miracle,” someone said.

“There is a God who takes care of His children,” said someone else.

The next Sabbath, nine people came to church after hearing how God had answered Mother's prayer. All nine gave their hearts to Jesus and got baptized.

Hickel is happy to be alive.

"God saved me from the snake," he said.

Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help open a center of influence that will teach at-risk children about the power of prayer in Costa Rica. Thank you for planning a generous offering on September 28.

By Andrew McChesney

Sunday – July 14th

1. How does James explain this truth?

➤ **James 2:21-24** —

NOTE : ‘James writes of Abraham and says, “Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? See thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only” (James 2:21-24). In order for man to be justified by faith, faith must reach a point where it will control the affections and impulses of the heart; and it is by obedience that faith itself is made perfect.’ — *Selected Messages, book 1, page 366.*

2. Heaven’s Hotline

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Last Day Events***Sunday, July 14th, 2024******Last Day Events, Chapter 7, pp. 206*****“The Shaking”**

“The Latter Rain”**July 14th****he Early Rain Came in A.D. 31 at Pentecost**

Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waits for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.

James 5:7

In obedience to Christ's command, they [the disciples] waited in Jerusalem for the promise of the Father--the outpouring of the Spirit. They did not wait in idleness. The record says that they were "continually in the temple, praising and blessing God." (Luke 24:53). . .

As the disciples waited for the fulfillment of the promise, they humbled their hearts in true repentance and confessed their unbelief. . . . The disciples prayed with intense earnestness for a fitness to meet men and in their daily intercourse to speak words that would lead sinners to Christ. Putting away all differences, all desire for the supremacy, they came close together in Christian fellowship.—*Acts of the Apostles*, p. 35-37 (1911).

It was after the disciples had come into perfect unity, when they were no longer striving for the highest place, that the Spirit was poured out.—*Testimonies to the Church*, 8, p. 20 (1904).

The outpouring of the Spirit in the days of the apostles was the beginning of the early, or former, rain, and glorious was the result. To the end of time the presence of the Spirit is to abide with the true church.-- *Acts of the Apostles*, p. 54, 55 (1911).

*Daily Scripture**Sunday, July 14th, 2024***1st Samuel Chapter 15****The Lord Rejects Saul**

- 1Sa 15:1 Samuel also said unto Saul, The LORD sent me to anoint thee *to be* king over his people, over Israel: now therefore hearken thou unto the voice of the words of the LORD.
- 1Sa 15:2 Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I remember *that* which Amalek did to Israel, how he laid *wait* for him in the way, when he came up from Egypt.
- 1Sa 15:3 Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass.
- 1Sa 15:4 And Saul gathered the people together, and numbered them in Telaim, two hundred thousand footmen, and ten thousand men of Judah.
- 1Sa 15:5 And Saul came to a city of Amalek, and laid wait in the valley.
- 1Sa 15:6 And Saul said unto the Kenites, Go, depart, get you down from among the Amalekites, lest I destroy you with them: for ye shewed kindness to all the children of Israel, when they came up out of Egypt. So the Kenites departed from among the Amalekites.
- 1Sa 15:7 And Saul smote the Amalekites from Havilah *until* thou come to Shur, that *is* over against Egypt.
- 1Sa 15:8 And he took Agag the king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword.
- 1Sa 15:9 But Saul and the people spared Agag, and the best of the sheep, and of the oxen, and of the fatlings, and the lambs, and all *that was* good, and would not utterly destroy them: but everything *that was* vile and refuse, that they destroyed utterly.
- 1Sa 15:10 Then came the word of the LORD unto Samuel, saying,
- 1Sa 15:11 It repents me that I have set up Saul *to be* king: for he is turned back from following me, and hath not performed my commandments. And it grieved Samuel; and he cried unto the LORD all night.
- 1Sa 15:12 And when Samuel rose early to meet Saul in the morning, it was told Samuel, saying, Saul came to Carmel, and, behold, he set him up a place, and is gone about, and passed on, and gone down to Gilgal.
- 1Sa 15:13 And Samuel came to Saul: and Saul said unto him, Blessed *be* thou of the LORD: I have performed the commandment of the LORD.
- 1Sa 15:14 And Samuel said, What *means* then this bleating of the sheep in mine ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?
- 1Sa 15:15 And Saul said, They have brought them from the Amalekites: for the people spared the best of the sheep and of the oxen, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed.
- 1Sa 15:16 Then Samuel said unto Saul, Stay, and I will tell thee what the LORD hath said to me this night. And he said unto him, Say on.
- 1Sa 15:17 And Samuel said, When thou *wast* little in thine own sight, *wast* thou not *made* the head of the tribes of Israel, and the LORD anointed thee king over Israel?
- 1Sa 15:18 And the LORD sent thee on a journey, and said, Go and utterly destroy the sinners the Amalekites, and fight against them until they be consumed.
- 1Sa 15:19 Wherefore then didst thou not obey the voice of the LORD, but didst fly upon the spoil, and didst evil in the sight of the LORD?
- 1Sa 15:20 And Saul said unto Samuel, Yea, I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and have gone the way which the LORD sent me, and have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites.
- 1Sa 15:21 But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the chief of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God in Gilgal.
- 1Sa 15:22 And Samuel said, Hath the LORD *as great* delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey *is* better than sacrifice, *and* to hearken than the fat of rams.

- 1Sa 15:23 For rebellion *is as* the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness *is as* iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from *being* king.
- 1Sa 15:24 And Saul said unto Samuel, I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD, and thy words: because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice.
- 1Sa 15:25 Now therefore, I pray thee, pardon my sin, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD.
- 1Sa 15:26 And Samuel said unto Saul, I will not return with thee: for thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD hath rejected thee from being king over Israel.
- 1Sa 15:27 And as Samuel turned about to go away, he laid hold upon the skirt of his mantle, and it rent.
- 1Sa 15:28 And Samuel said unto him, The LORD hath rent the kingdom of Israel from thee this day, and hath given it to a neighbour of thine, *that is* better than thou.
- 1Sa 15:29 And also the Strength of Israel will not lie nor repent: for he *is* not a man, that he should repent.
- 1Sa 15:30 Then he said, I have sinned: *yet* honour me now, I pray thee, before the elders of my people, and before Israel, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD thy God.
- 1Sa 15:31 So Samuel turned again after Saul; and Saul worshipped the LORD.
- 1Sa 15:32 Then said Samuel, Bring ye hither to me Agag the king of the Amalekites. And Agag came unto him delicately. And Agag said, Surely the bitterness of death is past.
- 1Sa 15:33 And Samuel said, As thy sword hath made women childless, so shall thy mother be childless among women. And Samuel hewed Agag in pieces before the LORD in Gilgal.
- 1Sa 15:34 Then Samuel went to Ramah; and Saul went up to his house to Gibeah of Saul.
- 1Sa 15:35 And Samuel came no more to see Saul until the day of his death: nevertheless Samuel mourned for Saul: and the LORD repented that he had made Saul king over Israel.

*Monday – July 15th***1. What does James say about a ‘faith’ that does not manifest itself in works of righteousness?**

➤ **James 2:26** —

NOTE : ‘There are many in the Christian world who claim that all that is necessary to salvation is to have faith; works are nothing, faith is the only essential. But God’s Word tells us that faith without works is dead, being alone. Many refuse to obey God’s commandments, yet they make a great deal of faith. But faith must have a foundation. God’s promises are all made upon conditions. If we do His will, if we walk in truth, then we may ask what we will, and it shall be done unto us. While we earnestly endeavour to be obedient, God will hear our petitions; but He will not bless us in disobedience. If we choose to disobey His commandments, we may cry, “Faith, faith, only have faith,” and the response will come back from the sure Word of God, “Faith without works is dead” (James 2:20). Such faith will only be as sounding brass and as a tinkling cymbal. In order to have the benefits of God’s grace we must do our part; we must faithfully work and bring forth fruits meet for repentance.’ Faith & Works, page 47.

2. What important question does James ask and answer?

➤ **James 2:14, 17-20** —

NOTE : ‘Faith and works go hand in hand; they act harmoniously in the work of overcoming. Works without faith are dead, and faith without works is dead. Works will never save us; it is the merit of Christ that will avail in our behalf. Through faith in Him, Christ will make all our imperfect efforts acceptable to God. The faith we are required to have is not a do-nothing faith; saving faith is that which works by love [Galatians 5:6] and purifies the soul. He who will lift up holy hands to God without wrath and doubting will walk intelligently in the way of God’s commandments.’ Faith & Works, page 48.

3. Heaven’s Hotline

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Last Day Events***Monday, July 15th, 2024******Last Day Events, Chapter 7, pp. 207*****“The Shaking”**

“The Latter Rain”**July 15th****Consequences of the Early Rain at Pentecost**

Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

Acts 2:41

Under the influence of the Spirit, words of penitence and confession mingled with songs of praise for sins forgiven. . . . Thousands were converted in a day. . . .

The Holy Spirit . . . enabled them to speak with fluency languages with which they had heretofore been unacquainted. . . . The Holy Spirit did for them that which they could not have accomplished for themselves in a lifetime.—*Acts of the Apostles, p. 38-40 (1911).*

Their hearts were surcharged with a benevolence so full, so deep, so far-reaching, that it impelled them to go to the ends of the earth, testifying to the power of Christ. —*Acts of the Apostles, p. 46 (1911).*

What was the result of the outpouring of the Spirit on the Day of Pentecost? The glad tidings of a risen Saviour were carried to the uttermost parts of the inhabited world. . . . The church beheld converts flocking to her from all directions. Backsliders were reconverted. . . . The ambition of the believers was to reveal the likeness of Christ's character and to labour for the enlargement of His kingdom. —*Acts of the Apostles, p. 48 (1911).*

Daily Scripture**Monday, July 15th, 2024****1st Samuel Chapter 16****David Anointed King**

- 1Sa 16:1 And the LORD said unto Samuel, How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Bethlehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons.
- 1Sa 16:2 And Samuel said, How can I go? if Saul hear *it*, he will kill me. And the LORD said, Take an heifer with thee, and say, I am come to sacrifice to the LORD.
- 1Sa 16:3 And call Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will shew thee what thou shalt do: and thou shalt anoint unto me *him* whom I name unto thee.
- 1Sa 16:4 And Samuel did that which the LORD spake, and came to Bethlehem. And the elders of the town trembled at his coming, and said, Come thou peaceably?
- 1Sa 16:5 And he said, Peaceably: I am come to sacrifice unto the LORD: sanctify yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice. And he sanctified Jesse and his sons, and called them to the sacrifice.
- 1Sa 16:6 And it came to pass, when they were come, that he looked on Eliab, and said, Surely the LORD'S anointed *is* before him.
- 1Sa 16:7 But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for *the LORD sees* not as man sees; for man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.
- 1Sa 16:8 Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, Neither hath the LORD chosen this.
- 1Sa 16:9 Then Jesse made Shammah to pass by. And he said, Neither hath the LORD chosen this.
- 1Sa 16:10 Again, Jesse made seven of his sons to pass before Samuel. And Samuel said unto Jesse, The LORD hath not chosen these.
- 1Sa 16:11 And Samuel said unto Jesse, Are here all *thy* children? And he said, There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he keeps the sheep. And Samuel said unto Jesse, Send and fetch him: for we will not sit down till he come hither.
- 1Sa 16:12 And he sent, and brought him in. Now he *was* ruddy, *and* withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to. And the LORD said, Arise, anoint him: for this *is* he.
- 1Sa 16:13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah.

David in Saul's Service

- 1Sa 16:14 But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him.
- 1Sa 16:15 And Saul's servants said unto him, Behold now, an evil spirit from God troubles thee.
- 1Sa 16:16 Let our lord now command thy servants, *which are* before thee, to seek out a man, *who is* a cunning player on an harp: and it shall come to pass, when the evil spirit from God is upon thee, that he shall play with his hand, and thou shalt be well.
- 1Sa 16:17 And Saul said unto his servants, Provide me now a man that can play well, and bring *him* to me.
- 1Sa 16:18 Then answered one of the servants, and said, Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, *that is* cunning in playing, and a mighty valiant man, and a man of war, and prudent in matters, and a comely person, and the LORD *is* with him.
- 1Sa 16:19 Wherefore Saul sent messengers unto Jesse, and said, Send me David thy son, which *is* with the sheep.
- 1Sa 16:20 And Jesse took an ass *laden* with bread, and a bottle of wine, and a kid, and sent *them* by David his son unto Saul.
- 1Sa 16:21 And David came to Saul, and stood before him: and he loved him greatly; and he became his armour bearer.

- 1Sa 16:22 And Saul sent to Jesse, saying, Let David, I pray thee, stand before me; for he hath found favour in my sight.
- 1Sa 16:23 And it came to pass, when the *evil* spirit from God was upon Saul, that David took an harp, and played with his hand: so Saul was refreshed, and was well, and the evil spirit departed from him.

Tuesday – July 16th

1. What alternative view of imputed righteousness is proposed by Calvinists?



NOTE : ‘The doctrine of imputed righteousness... means that Christ so represented us that His righteousness is accounted as ours, as though we ourselves had been perfectly obedient and righteous. By inference, this means that such accounting, or “transfer of credit” forgoes the necessity of our being actually and personally righteous. Christ’s righteousness was sufficient for both Himself and us. Our sin or righteousness, personally, has nothing to do with the matter, as long as we accept Christ’s work on the cross and through faith hide behind His righteousness. In our actual heart condition we may be unclean, but God doesn’t look at us; He looks at Christ and imputes unto us His righteousness. If a believer sins, he is not liable to eternal punishment, for his guilt is transferred to Christ, and Christ’s righteousness is transferred to him. As one lady very sincerely expressed it, “We are to ‘reckon’ ourselves dead indeed unto sin. Of course the sin is still there, we can never get rid of that, but we are to reckon ourselves dead to it because of Christ’s completed work for us.”’ — *Richard S. Taylor: A Right Conception of Sin, page 14*. [Emphasis in original.]

Dr Taylor is not a Calvinist; he is explaining Calvinism merely in order to show where it falls short. Calvinist theologian, Dr Desmond Ford says: ‘Sin remains, but it does not reign.’

2. How does the Calvinist view of imputed righteousness change the nature of sin?



NOTE : ‘When he says that he is saved from the dominion of sin he means that sin, though still present and active, has lost its dominion. As far as any power to bring one under eternal condemnation is concerned it is dead... The Christian remains sinful, later may again be an open sinner, all of which is pitiable and should be avoided of course, but it is no longer fatal. The Christian is not delivered from sin, his nature is not fundamentally changed by a complete cleansing, but the nature of sin is changed so that it is no longer deadly. In other words, the sinner sins and is damned forever, but the Christian, who has been converted, may thereafter commit the same sins, but is merely taken home to heaven. The writer has actually known an eminent Bible expositor to say that if a Christian persisted in his sin, God would be forced to take him to heaven.’ — *Richard S. Taylor: A Right Conception of Sin, page 18*. [Emphasis in original.]

3. Heaven’s Hotline



Last Day Events***Tuesday, July 16th, 2024******Last Day Events, Chapter 7, pp. 208*****“The Shaking”**

“The Latter Rain”**July 16th****The Promise of the Latter Rain**

Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the LORD: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth.

Hosea 6:3

The outpouring of the Spirit in the days of the apostles was "the former rain," and glorious was the result. But the latter rain will be more abundant.—*Testimonies to the Church*, vol. 8, p. 21 (1904).

Near the close of earth's harvest, a special bestowal of spiritual grace is promised to prepare the church for the coming of the Son of man. This outpouring of the Spirit is likened to the falling of the latter rain.—*Acts of the Apostles*, p. 55 (1911).

Before the final visitation of God's judgments upon the earth there will be among the people of the Lord such a revival of primitive godliness as has not been witnessed since apostolic times. The Spirit and power of God will be poured out upon His children.—*The Great Controversy*, p. 464 (1911).

The work will be similar to that of the Day of Pentecost. As the "former rain" was given, in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at the opening of the gospel, to cause the upspringing of the precious seed, so the "latter rain" will be given at its close for the ripening of the harvest.—*The Great Controversy*, p. 611 (1911).

*Daily Scripture**Tuesday, July 16th, 2024***1st Samuel Chapter 17****David and Goliath**

- 1Sa 17:1 Now the Philistines gathered together their armies to battle, and were gathered together at Shochoh, which *belongs* to Judah, and pitched between Shochoh and Azekah, in Ephesdammim.
- 1Sa 17:2 And Saul and the men of Israel were gathered together, and pitched by the valley of Elah, and set the battle in array against the Philistines.
- 1Sa 17:3 And the Philistines stood on a mountain on the one side, and Israel stood on a mountain on the other side: and *there was* a valley between them.
- 1Sa 17:4 And there went out a champion out of the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, of Gath, whose height *was* six cubits and a span.
- 1Sa 17:5 And *he had* an helmet of brass upon his head, and he *was* armed with a coat of mail; and the weight of the coat *was* five thousand shekels of brass.
- 1Sa 17:6 And *he had* greaves of brass upon his legs, and a target of brass between his shoulders.
- 1Sa 17:7 And the staff of his spear *was* like a weaver's beam; and his spear's head *weighed* six hundred shekels of iron: and one bearing a shield went before him.
- 1Sa 17:8 And he stood and cried unto the armies of Israel, and said unto them, Why are ye come out to set *your* battle in array? *am* not I a Philistine, and ye servants to Saul? choose you a man for you, and let him come down to me.
- 1Sa 17:9 If he be able to fight with me, and to kill me, then will we be your servants: but if I prevail against him, and kill him, then shall ye be our servants, and serve us.
- 1Sa 17:10 And the Philistine said, I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together.
- 1Sa 17:11 When Saul and all Israel heard those words of the Philistine, they were dismayed, and greatly afraid.
- 1Sa 17:12 Now David *was* the son of that Ephrathite of Bethlehemjudah, whose name *was* Jesse; and he had eight sons: and the man went among men *for* an old man in the days of Saul.
- 1Sa 17:13 And the three eldest sons of Jesse went *and* followed Saul to the battle: and the names of his three sons that went to the battle *were* Eliab the firstborn, and next unto him Abinadab, and the third Shammah.
- 1Sa 17:14 And David *was* the youngest: and the three eldest followed Saul.
- 1Sa 17:15 But David went and returned from Saul to feed his father's sheep at Bethlehem.
- 1Sa 17:16 And the Philistine drew near morning and evening, and presented himself forty days.
- 1Sa 17:17 And Jesse said unto David his son, Take now for thy brethren an ephah of this parched *corn*, and these ten loaves, and run to the camp to thy brethren;
- 1Sa 17:18 And carry these ten cheeses unto the captain of *their* thousand, and look how thy brethren fare, and take their pledge.
- 1Sa 17:19 Now Saul, and they, and all the men of Israel, *were* in the valley of Elah, fighting with the Philistines.
- 1Sa 17:20 And David rose up early in the morning, and left the sheep with a keeper, and took, and went, as Jesse had commanded him; and he came to the trench, as the host was going forth to the fight, and shouted for the battle.
- 1Sa 17:21 For Israel and the Philistines had put the battle in array, army against army.
- 1Sa 17:22 And David left his carriage in the hand of the keeper of the carriage, and ran into the army, and came and saluted his brethren.
- 1Sa 17:23 And as he talked with them, behold, there came up the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, out of the armies of the Philistines, and spake according to the same words: and David heard *them*.
- 1Sa 17:24 And all the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him, and were sore afraid.

- 1Sa 17:25 And the men of Israel said, Have ye seen this man that is come up? surely to defy Israel is he come up: and it shall be, *that* the man who kills him, the king will enrich him with great riches, and will give him his daughter, and make his father's house free in Israel.
- 1Sa 17:26 And David spake to the men that stood by him, saying, What shall be done to the man that kills this Philistine, and taketh away the reproach from Israel? for who *is* this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?
- 1Sa 17:27 And the people answered him after this manner, saying, So shall it be done to the man that kills him.
- 1Sa 17:28 And Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spake unto the men; and Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said, Why came thou down hither? and with whom hast thou left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know thy pride, and the naughtiness of thine heart; for thou art come down that thou might see the battle.
- 1Sa 17:29 And David said, What have I now done? *Is there* not a cause?
- 1Sa 17:30 And he turned from him toward another, and spake after the same manner: and the people answered him again after the former manner.
- 1Sa 17:31 And when the words were heard which David spake, they rehearsed *them* before Saul: and he sent for him.
- 1Sa 17:32 And David said to Saul, Let no man's heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine.
- 1Sa 17:33 And Saul said to David, Thou art not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him: for thou *art but* a youth, and he a man of war from his youth.
- 1Sa 17:34 And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock:
- 1Sa 17:35 And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered *it* out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught *him* by his beard, and smote him, and slew him.
- 1Sa 17:36 Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God.
- 1Sa 17:37 David said moreover, The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the LORD be with thee.
- 1Sa 17:38 And Saul armed David with his armour, and he put an helmet of brass upon his head; also he armed him with a coat of mail.
- 1Sa 17:39 And David girded his sword upon his armour, and he assayed to go; for he had not proved *it*. And David said unto Saul, I cannot go with these; for I have not proved *them*. And David put them off him.
- 1Sa 17:40 And he took his staff in his hand, and chose him five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag which he had, even in a scrip; and his sling *was* in his hand: and he drew near to the Philistine.
- 1Sa 17:41 And the Philistine came on and drew near unto David; and the man that bare the shield *went* before him.
- 1Sa 17:42 And when the Philistine looked about, and saw David, he disdained him: for he was *but* a youth, and ruddy, and of a fair countenance.
- 1Sa 17:43 And the Philistine said unto David, *Am* I a dog, that thou come to me with staves? And the Philistine cursed David by his gods.
- 1Sa 17:44 And the Philistine said to David, Come to me, and I will give thy flesh unto the fowls of the air, and to the beasts of the field.
- 1Sa 17:45 Then said David to the Philistine, Thou come to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied.
- 1Sa 17:46 This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcases of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.

- 1Sa 17:47 And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saves not with sword and spear: for the battle *is* the LORD'S, and he will give you into our hands.
- 1Sa 17:48 And it came to pass, when the Philistine arose, and came and drew nigh to meet David, that David hasted, and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine.
- 1Sa 17:49 And David put his hand in his bag, and took thence a stone, and slang *it*, and smote the Philistine in his forehead, that the stone sunk into his forehead; and he fell upon his face to the earth.
- 1Sa 17:50 So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and smote the Philistine, and slew him; but *there was* no sword in the hand of David.
- 1Sa 17:51 Therefore David ran, and stood upon the Philistine, and took his sword, and drew it out of the sheath thereof, and slew him, and cut off his head therewith. And when the Philistines saw their champion was dead, they fled.
- 1Sa 17:52 And the men of Israel and of Judah arose, and shouted, and pursued the Philistines, until thou come to the valley, and to the gates of Ekron. And the wounded of the Philistines fell down by the way to Shaaraim, even unto Gath, and unto Ekron.
- 1Sa 17:53 And the children of Israel returned from chasing after the Philistines, and they spoiled their tents.
- 1Sa 17:54 And David took the head of the Philistine, and brought it to Jerusalem; but he put his armour in his tent.
- 1Sa 17:55 And when Saul saw David go forth against the Philistine, he said unto Abner, the captain of the host, Abner, whose son *is* this youth? And Abner said, *As* thy soul lives, O king, I cannot tell.
- 1Sa 17:56 And the king said, Enquire thou whose son the stripling *is*.
- 1Sa 17:57 And as David returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, Abner took him, and brought him before Saul with the head of the Philistine in his hand.
- 1Sa 17:58 And Saul said to him, Whose son *art* thou, *thou* young man? And David answered, I *am* the son of thy servant Jesse the Bethlehemite.

Wednesday – July 17th

1. How was Zechariah shown the meaning of imputed righteousness?

➤ Zechariah 3:3-4 —

NOTE : ‘A popular Calvinist image of justification depicts the sinner having the white robe of Christ’s righteousness placed over the filthy garments of sin. Zechariah’s vision gives a different picture. ‘Your heavenly Father will take from you the garments defiled by sin. In the beautiful parabolic prophecy of Zechariah, the high priest Joshua, standing clothed in filthy garments before the angel of the Lord, represents the sinner. And the word is spoken by the Lord, “Take away the filthy garments from him. And unto him He said, Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with the change of raiment.... So they set a fair mitre upon his head, and clothed him with garments.” Zechariah 3:4,5. Even so God will clothe you with “the garments of salvation,” and cover you with “the robe of righteousness.” Isaiah 61:10. “Though ye have lien among the pots, yet shall ye be as the wings of a dove covered with silver, and her feathers with yellow gold.” Psalm 68:13. He will bring you into His banqueting house, and His banner over you shall be love. (Cant.2:4) “If thou wilt walk in My ways,” He declares, “I will give you places to walk among these that stand by,” even among the holy angels that surround His throne. (Zechariah 3:7.), — *Christ’s Object Lessons*, page 206.

2. What are the garments that Christ bestows on those who confess their sins and trust in His power to justify them?

➤ Isaiah 61:10 —

NOTE: ‘This robe, woven in the loom of heaven, has in it not one thread of human devising. Christ in His humanity wrought out a perfect character, and this character He offers to impart to us. “All our righteousnesses are as filthy rags.” Isaiah 64:6. Everything that we of ourselves can do is defiled by sin. But the Son of God “was manifested to take away our sins; and in Him is no sin.” Sin is defined to be “the transgression of the law.” 1 John 3:5, 4. But Christ was obedient to every requirement of the law. He said of Himself, “I delight to do Thy will, O My God; yea, Thy law is within My heart.” Psalm 40:8. When on earth, He said to His disciples, “I have kept My Father’s commandments.” John 15:10. By His perfect obedience He has made it possible for every human being to obey God’s commandments. When we submit ourselves to Christ, the heart is united with His heart, the will is merged in His will, the mind becomes one with His mind, the thoughts are brought into captivity to Him; we live His life. This is what it means to be clothed with the garment of His righteousness. Then as the Lord looks upon us He sees, not the fig-leaf garment, not the nakedness and deformity of sin, but His own robe of righteousness, which is perfect obedience to the law of Jehovah.’ — *Christ’s Object Lessons*, page 311.

3. Heaven’s Hotline

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Last Day Events

Wednesday, July 17th, 2024

Last Day Events, Chapter 7, pp. 209

“The Shaking”

“The Latter Rain”

July 17th

The Latter Rain Will Produce the Loud Cry

Neither say they in their heart, Let us now fear the LORD our God, that giveth rain, both the former and the latter, in his season: he reserves unto us the appointed weeks of the harvest.

Jeremiah 5:24

At that time the "latter rain," or refreshing from the presence of the Lord, will come, to give power to the loud voice of the third angel, and prepare the saints to stand in the period when the seven last plagues shall be poured out.—*Early Writings, p. 86 (1854).*

I heard those clothed with the armour speak forth the truth with great power. It had effect. . . . I asked what had made this great change. An angel answered, "It is the latter rain, the refreshing from the presence of the Lord, the loud cry of the third angel."—*Early Writings, p. 271 (1858).*

B. The Personal Application To Individual Christians

Daily Scripture**Wednesday, July 17th, 2024****1st Samuel Chapter 18****David and Jonathan's Friendship**

- 1Sa 18:1 And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking unto Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.
- 1Sa 18:2 And Saul took him that day, and would let him go no more home to his father's house.
- 1Sa 18:3 Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul.
- 1Sa 18:4 And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that *was* upon him, and gave it to David, and his garments, even to his sword, and to his bow, and to his girdle.
- 1Sa 18:5 And David went out whithersoever Saul sent him, *and* behaved himself wisely: and Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of all the people, and also in the sight of Saul's servants.

Saul's Jealousy of David

- 1Sa 18:6 And it came to pass as they came, when David was returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, that the women came out of all cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet king Saul, with tabrets, with joy, and with instruments of music.
- 1Sa 18:7 And the women answered *one another* as they played, and said, Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands.
- 1Sa 18:8 And Saul was very wroth, and the saying displeased him; and he said, They have ascribed unto David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed *but* thousands: and *what* can he have more but the kingdom?
- 1Sa 18:9 And Saul eyed David from that day and forward.
- 1Sa 18:10 And it came to pass on the morrow, that the evil spirit from God came upon Saul, and he prophesied in the midst of the house: and David played with his hand, as at other times: and *there was* a javelin in Saul's hand.
- 1Sa 18:11 And Saul cast the javelin; for he said, I will smite David even to the wall *with it*. And David avoided out of his presence twice.
- 1Sa 18:12 And Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with him, and was departed from Saul.
- 1Sa 18:13 Therefore Saul removed him from him, and made him his captain over a thousand; and he went out and came in before the people.
- 1Sa 18:14 And David behaved himself wisely in all his ways; and the LORD *was* with him.
- 1Sa 18:15 Wherefore when Saul saw that he behaved himself very wisely, he was afraid of him.
- 1Sa 18:16 But all Israel and Judah loved David, because he went out and came in before them.

David Marries Michal

- 1Sa 18:17 And Saul said to David, Behold my elder daughter Merab, her will I give thee to wife: only be thou valiant for me, and fight the LORD'S battles. For Saul said, Let not mine hand be upon him, but let the hand of the Philistines be upon him.
- 1Sa 18:18 And David said unto Saul, Who *am* I? and what *is* my life, *or* my father's family in Israel, that I should be son in law to the king?
- 1Sa 18:19 But it came to pass at the time when Merab Saul's daughter should have been given to David, that she was given unto Adriel the Meholathite to wife.
- 1Sa 18:20 And Michal Saul's daughter loved David: and they told Saul, and the thing pleased him.
- 1Sa 18:21 And Saul said, I will give him her, that she may be a snare to him, and that the hand of the Philistines may be against him. Wherefore Saul said to David, Thou shalt this day be my son in law in *the one of* the twain.

- 1Sa 18:22 And Saul commanded his servants, *saying*, Commune with David secretly, and say, Behold, the king hath delight in thee, and all his servants love thee: now therefore be the king's son in law.
- 1Sa 18:23 And Saul's servants spake those words in the ears of David. And David said, Seems it to you *a* light *thing* to be a king's son in law, seeing that I *am* a poor man, and lightly esteemed?
- 1Sa 18:24 And the servants of Saul told him, saying, On this manner spake David.
- 1Sa 18:25 And Saul said, Thus shall ye say to David, The king desires not any dowry, but an hundred foreskins of the Philistines, to be avenged of the king's enemies. But Saul thought to make David fall by the hand of the Philistines.
- 1Sa 18:26 And when his servants told David these words, it pleased David well to be the king's son in law: and the days were not expired.
- 1Sa 18:27 Wherefore David arose and went, he and his men, and slew of the Philistines two hundred men; and David brought their foreskins, and they gave them in full tale to the king, that he might be the king's son in law. And Saul gave him Michal his daughter to wife.
- 1Sa 18:28 And Saul saw and knew that the LORD *was* with David, and *that* Michal Saul's daughter loved him.
- 1Sa 18:29 And Saul was yet the more afraid of David; and Saul became David's enemy continually.
- 1Sa 18:30 Then the princes of the Philistines went forth: and it came to pass, after they went forth, *that* David behaved himself more wisely than all the servants of Saul; so that his name was much set by.

Thursday – July 18th

1. What important question does Paul pose to those who have been justified by faith?

➤ Romans 6:1 —

NOTE : ‘The apostle Paul inquires, “Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? God forbid.” Shall we presume upon the mercy of Christ by living in transgression of the law of God? Paul declares to the elders of the church, “I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have taught you publicly, and from house to house, testifying both to the Jews and also to the Greeks, repentance towards God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.” Repentance toward God because of His law transgressed, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ, as the sinner’s Advocate.’ — *Signs of the Times*, July 18, 1878.

2. What, according to the apostle John, does continued sin reveal?

➤ 1 John 3:8-9 —

NOTE : ‘John writes, “Whosoever commits sin, transgresses also the law; for sin is the transgression of the law. And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins; and in Him is no sin. Whosoever abides in Him sins not; whosoever sins [transgresses the law] hath not seen Him, neither known Him.” We are authorised to hold in the same estimation as did the beloved disciple those who claim to abide in Christ, to be sanctified, while living in the transgression of God’s law. He met with just such a class as we have to meet. He said, “Little children, let no man deceive you. He that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as He is righteous. He that commits sin is of the devil; for the devil sinned from the beginning.” Here the apostle speaks in plain terms, as he deemed the subject demanded. The epistles of John breathe a spirit of love. But when he comes in contact with that class who break the law of God and yet claim that they are living without sin, he does not hesitate to warn them of their fearful deception. “If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: but if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.”’ — *Review & Herald*, February 22, 1881.

3. Heaven’s Hotline

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Last Day Events***Thursday, July 18th, 2024******Last Day Events, Chapter 7, pp. 210*****“The Shaking”**

“The Latter Rain”**July 18th****The Early Rain Produces Conversion; The Latter Rain Develops a Christlike Character**

Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month.

Joel 2:23

At no point in our experience can we dispense with the assistance of that which enables us to make the first start. The blessings received under the former rain are needful to us to the end. . . . As we seek God for the Holy Spirit, it will work in us meekness, humbleness of mind, a conscious dependence upon God for the perfecting latter rain.—*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 507, 509 (1897).

The Holy Spirit seeks to abide in each soul. If it is welcomed as an honoured guest, those who receive it will be made complete in Christ. The good work begun will be finished; the holy thoughts, heavenly affections, and Christlike actions will take the place of impure thoughts, perverse sentiments, and rebellious acts.—*Counsels on Health*, p. 561 (1896).

We may have had a measure of the Spirit of God, but by prayer and faith we are continually to seek more of the Spirit. It will never do to cease our efforts. If we do not progress, if we do not place ourselves in an attitude to receive both the former and the latter rain, we shall lose our souls, and the responsibility will lie at our own door. . .

The convocations of the church, as in camp meetings, the assemblies of the home church, and all occasions where there is personal labour for souls, are God's appointed opportunities for giving the early and the latter rain.—*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 508 (1897).

When the way is prepared for the Spirit of God, the blessing will come. Satan can no more hinder a shower of blessing from descending upon God's people than he can close the windows of heaven that rain cannot come upon the earth.—*Selected Messages, Book 1*, p. 124 (1887).

Daily Scripture**Thursday, July 18th, 2024****1st Samuel Chapter 19****Saul Tries to Kill David**

- 1Sa 19:1 And Saul spake to Jonathan his son, and to all his servants, that they should kill David.
- 1Sa 19:2 But Jonathan Saul's son delighted much in David: and Jonathan told David, saying, Saul my father seeks to kill thee: now therefore, I pray thee, take heed to thyself until the morning, and abide in a secret *place*, and hide thyself:
- 1Sa 19:3 And I will go out and stand beside my father in the field where thou *art*, and I will commune with my father of thee; and what I see, that I will tell thee.
- 1Sa 19:4 And Jonathan spake good of David unto Saul his father, and said unto him, Let not the king sin against his servant, against David; because he hath not sinned against thee, and because his works *have been* to thee-ward very good:
- 1Sa 19:5 For he did put his life in his hand, and slew the Philistine, and the LORD wrought a great salvation for all Israel: thou saw *it*, and didst rejoice: wherefore then wilt thou sin against innocent blood, to slay David without a cause?
- 1Sa 19:6 And Saul hearkened unto the voice of Jonathan: and Saul sware, *As* the LORD lives, he shall not be slain.
- 1Sa 19:7 And Jonathan called David, and Jonathan shewed him all those things. And Jonathan brought David to Saul, and he was in his presence, as in times past.
- 1Sa 19:8 And there was war again: and David went out, and fought with the Philistines, and slew them with a great slaughter; and they fled from him.
- 1Sa 19:9 And the evil spirit from the LORD was upon Saul, as he sat in his house with his javelin in his hand: and David played with *his* hand.
- 1Sa 19:10 And Saul sought to smite David even to the wall with the javelin; but he slipped away out of Saul's presence, and he smote the javelin into the wall: and David fled, and escaped that night.
- 1Sa 19:11 Saul also sent messengers unto David's house, to watch him, and to slay him in the morning: and Michal David's wife told him, saying, If thou save not thy life tonight, tomorrow thou shalt be slain.
- 1Sa 19:12 So Michal let David down through a window: and he went, and fled, and escaped.
- 1Sa 19:13 And Michal took an image, and laid *it* in the bed, and put a pillow of goats' *hair* for his bolster, and covered *it* with a cloth.
- 1Sa 19:14 And when Saul sent messengers to take David, she said, He *is* sick.
- 1Sa 19:15 And Saul sent the messengers *again* to see David, saying, Bring him up to me in the bed, that I may slay him.
- 1Sa 19:16 And when the messengers were come in, behold, *there was* an image in the bed, with a pillow of goats' *hair* for his bolster.
- 1Sa 19:17 And Saul said unto Michal, Why hast thou deceived me so, and sent away mine enemy, that he is escaped? And Michal answered Saul, He said unto me, Let me go; why should I kill thee?
- 1Sa 19:18 So David fled, and escaped, and came to Samuel to Ramah, and told him all that Saul had done to him. And he and Samuel went and dwelt in Naioth.
- 1Sa 19:19 And it was told Saul, saying, Behold, David *is* at Naioth in Ramah.
- 1Sa 19:20 And Saul sent messengers to take David: and when they saw the company of the prophets prophesying, and Samuel standing *as* appointed over them, the Spirit of God was upon the messengers of Saul, and they also prophesied.
- 1Sa 19:21 And when it was told Saul, he sent other messengers, and they prophesied likewise. And Saul sent messengers again the third time, and they prophesied also.
- 1Sa 19:22 Then went he also to Ramah, and came to a great well that *is* in Sechu: and he asked and said, Where *are* Samuel and David? And *one* said, Behold, *they be* at Naioth in Ramah.

- 1Sa 19:23 And he went thither to Naioth in Ramah: and the Spirit of God was upon him also, and he went on, and prophesied, until he came to Naioth in Ramah.
- 1Sa 19:24 And he stripped off his clothes also, and prophesied before Samuel in like manner, and lay down naked all that day and all that night. Wherefore they say, *Is* Saul also among the prophets?

*Preparation Day – July 19th***1. What words will Jesus address to those who claimed to be His followers but were not saved from their sins?**

➤ **Matthew 7:21-23** —

NOTE : ‘Our great adversary has agents that are constantly hunting for an opportunity to destroy souls, as a lion hunts his prey. Shun them... for, while they appear to be your friends, they will slyly introduce evil ways and practices. They flatter you with their lips, and offer to help and guide you; but their steps take hold on hell. If you listen to their counsel, it may be the turning point in your life. One safeguard removed from conscience, the indulgence of one evil habit, a single neglect of the high claims of duty, may be the beginning of a course of deception that will pass you into the ranks of those who are serving Satan, while you are all the time professing to love God and His cause. A moment of thoughtlessness, a single misstep, may turn the whole current of your lives in the wrong direction. And you may never know what caused your ruin until the sentence is pronounced: “Depart from Me, ye that work iniquity.”’ — *Testimonies, volume 5, page 397.*

2. Heaven’s Hotline

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Last Day Events***Preparation Day, July 19th, 2024******Last Day Events, Chapter 7, pp. 211*****“The Shaking”**

“The Latter Rain”**July 19th****We Should Pray Earnestly for the Descent of the Holy Spirit****Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.****1 Thessalonians 5:17-18**

We should pray as earnestly for the descent of the Holy Spirit as the disciples prayed on the Day of Pentecost. If they needed it at that time, we need it more today.—*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5 p. 158 (1882).

The descent of the Holy Spirit upon the church is looked forward to as in the future, but it is the privilege of the church to have it now. Seek for it, pray for it, believe for it. We must have it, and Heaven is waiting to bestow it.—*Evangelism*, p. 701 (1895).

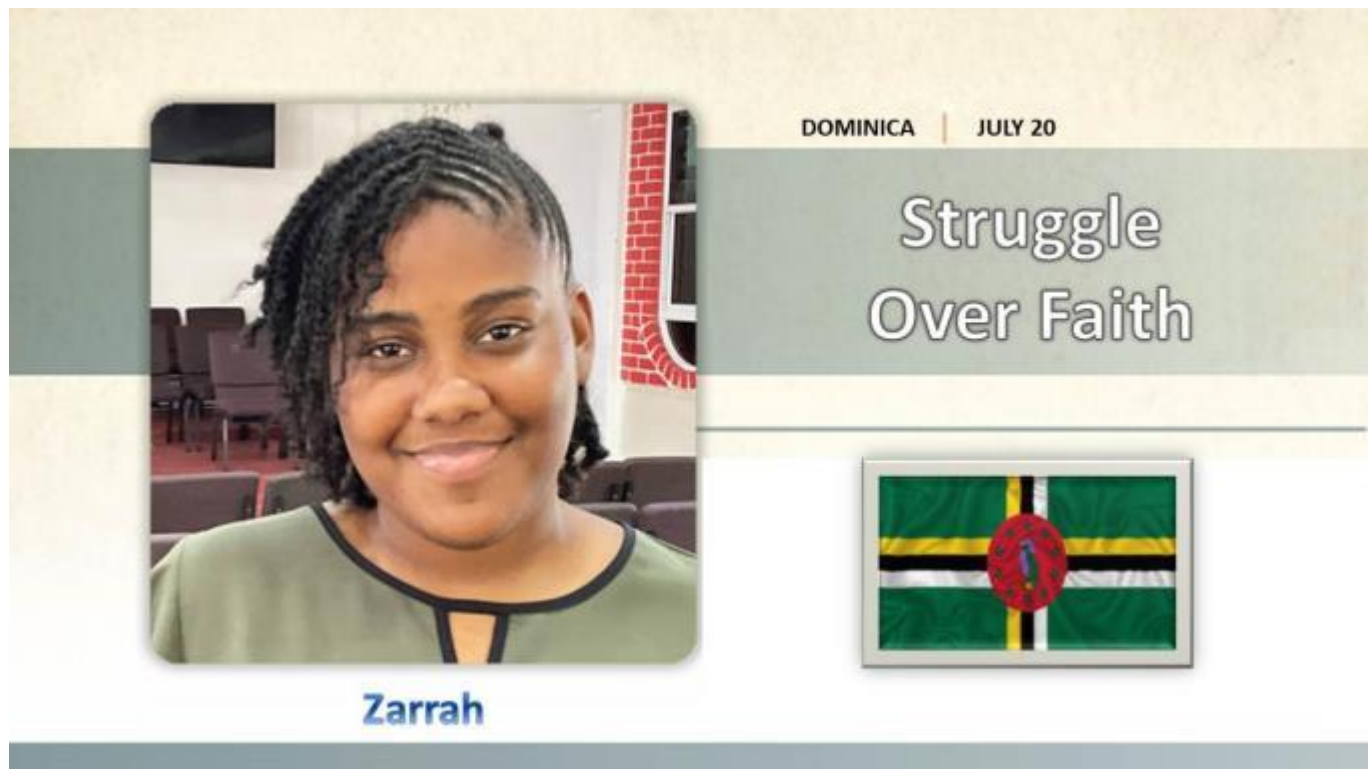
The measure of the Holy Spirit we receive will be proportioned to the measure of our desire and the faith exercised for it, and the use we shall make of the light and knowledge that shall be given to us.—*Review and Herald*, May 5, 1896.

We are not willing enough to trouble the Lord with our petitions, and to ask Him for the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Lord wants us to trouble Him in this matter. He wants us to press our petitions to the throne.—*Fundamentals of Christian Education*, p. 537 (1909).

Daily Scripture**Preparation Day, July 19th, 2024****1st Samuel Chapter 20****Jonathan Warns David**

- 1Sa 20:1 And David fled from Naioth in Ramah, and came and said before Jonathan, What have I done? what *is* mine iniquity? and what *is* my sin before thy father, that he seeks my life?
- 1Sa 20:2 And he said unto him, God forbid; thou shalt not die: behold, my father will do nothing either great or small, but that he will shew it me: and why should my father hide this thing from me? it *is* not *so*.
- 1Sa 20:3 And David sware moreover, and said, Thy father certainly knows that I have found grace in thine eyes; and he saith, Let not Jonathan know this, lest he be grieved: but truly *as* the LORD lives, and *as* thy soul lives, *there is* but a step between me and death.
- 1Sa 20:4 Then said Jonathan unto David, Whatsoever thy soul desires, I will even do *it* for thee.
- 1Sa 20:5 And David said unto Jonathan, Behold, tomorrow *is* the new moon, and I should not fail to sit with the king at meat: but let me go, that I may hide myself in the field unto the third *day* at even.
- 1Sa 20:6 If thy father at all miss me, then say, David earnestly asked *leave* of me that he might run to Bethlehem his city: for *there is* a yearly sacrifice there for all the family.
- 1Sa 20:7 If he say thus, *It is* well; thy servant shall have peace: but if he be very wroth, *then* be sure that evil is determined by him.
- 1Sa 20:8 Therefore thou shalt deal kindly with thy servant; for thou hast brought thy servant into a covenant of the LORD with thee: notwithstanding, if there be in me iniquity, slay me thyself; for why should thou bring me to thy father?
- 1Sa 20:9 And Jonathan said, Far be it from thee: for if I knew certainly that evil were determined by my father to come upon thee, then would not I tell it thee?
- 1Sa 20:10 Then said David to Jonathan, Who shall tell me? or what *if* thy father answer thee roughly?
- 1Sa 20:11 And Jonathan said unto David, Come, and let us go out into the field. And they went out both of them into the field.
- 1Sa 20:12 And Jonathan said unto David, O LORD God of Israel, when I have sounded my father about tomorrow any time, *or* the third *day*, and, behold, *if there be* good toward David, and I then send not unto thee, and shew it thee;
- 1Sa 20:13 The LORD do so and much more to Jonathan: but if it please my father *to do* thee evil, then I will shew it thee, and send thee away, that thou may go in peace: and the LORD be with thee, as he hath been with my father.
- 1Sa 20:14 And thou shalt not only while yet I live shew me the kindness of the LORD, that I die not:
- 1Sa 20:15 But *also* thou shalt not cut off thy kindness from my house for ever: no, not when the LORD hath cut off the enemies of David everyone from the face of the earth.
- 1Sa 20:16 So Jonathan made *a covenant* with the house of David, *saying*, Let the LORD even require *it* at the hand of David's enemies.
- 1Sa 20:17 And Jonathan caused David to swear again, because he loved him: for he loved him as he loved his own soul.
- 1Sa 20:18 Then Jonathan said to David, Tomorrow *is* the new moon: and thou shalt be missed, because thy seat will be empty.
- 1Sa 20:19 And *when* thou hast stayed three days, *then* thou shalt go down quickly, and come to the place where thou didst hide thyself when the business was *in hand*, and shalt remain by the stone Ezel.
- 1Sa 20:20 And I will shoot three arrows on the side *thereof*, as though I shot at a mark.
- 1Sa 20:21 And, behold, I will send a lad, *saying*, Go, find out the arrows. If I expressly say unto the lad, Behold, the arrows *are* on this side of thee, take them; then come thou: for *there is* peace to thee, and no hurt; *as* the LORD lives.
- 1Sa 20:22 But if I say thus unto the young man, Behold, the arrows *are* beyond thee; go thy way: for the LORD hath sent thee away.

- 1Sa 20:23 And *as touching* the matter which thou and I have spoken of, behold, the LORD *be* between thee and me for ever.
- 1Sa 20:24 So David hid himself in the field: and when the new moon was come, the king sat him down to eat meat.
- 1Sa 20:25 And the king sat upon his seat, as at other times, *even* upon a seat by the wall: and Jonathan arose, and Abner sat by Saul's side, and David's place was empty.
- 1Sa 20:26 Nevertheless Saul spake not anything that day: for he thought, Something hath befallen him, he *is* not clean; surely he *is* not clean.
- 1Sa 20:27 And it came to pass on the morrow, *which was* the second *day* of the month, that David's place was empty: and Saul said unto Jonathan his son, Wherefore cometh not the son of Jesse to meat, neither yesterday, nor to day?
- 1Sa 20:28 And Jonathan answered Saul, David earnestly asked *leave* of me *to go* to Bethlehem:
- 1Sa 20:29 And he said, Let me go, I pray thee; for our family hath a sacrifice in the city; and my brother, he hath commanded me *to be there*: and now, if I have found favour in thine eyes, let me get away, I pray thee, and see my brethren. Therefore he cometh not unto the king's table.
- 1Sa 20:30 Then Saul's anger was kindled against Jonathan, and he said unto him, Thou son of the perverse rebellious *woman*, do not I know that thou hast chosen the son of Jesse to thine own confusion, and unto the confusion of thy mother's nakedness?
- 1Sa 20:31 For as long as the son of Jesse lives upon the ground, thou shalt not be established, nor thy kingdom. Wherefore now send and fetch him unto me, for he shall surely die.
- 1Sa 20:32 And Jonathan answered Saul his father, and said unto him, Wherefore shall he be slain? what hath he done?
- 1Sa 20:33 And Saul cast a javelin at him to smite him: whereby Jonathan knew that it was determined of his father to slay David.
- 1Sa 20:34 So Jonathan arose from the table in fierce anger, and did eat no meat the second day of the month: for he was grieved for David, because his father had done him shame.
- 1Sa 20:35 And it came to pass in the morning, that Jonathan went out into the field at the time appointed with David, and a little lad with him.
- 1Sa 20:36 And he said unto his lad, Run, find out now the arrows which I shoot. *And* as the lad ran, he shot an arrow beyond him.
- 1Sa 20:37 And when the lad was come to the place of the arrow which Jonathan had shot, Jonathan cried after the lad, and said, *Is* not the arrow beyond thee?
- 1Sa 20:38 And Jonathan cried after the lad, Make speed, haste, stay not. And Jonathan's lad gathered up the arrows, and came to his master.
- 1Sa 20:39 But the lad knew not anything: only Jonathan and David knew the matter.
- 1Sa 20:40 And Jonathan gave his artillery unto his lad, and said unto him, Go, carry *them* to the city.
- 1Sa 20:41 *And* as soon as the lad was gone, David arose out of *a place* toward the south, and fell on his face to the ground, and bowed himself three times: and they kissed one another, and wept one with another, until David exceeded.
- 1Sa 20:42 And Jonathan said to David, Go in peace, forasmuch as we have sworn both of us in the name of the LORD, saying, The LORD be between me and thee, and between my seed and thy seed for ever. And he arose and departed: and Jonathan went into the city.

*Adult Mission Story**Preparation Day, July 19th, 2024*

Twenty-one-year-old Zarrah has considered herself a Seventh-day Adventist for as long as she can remember. She did not grow up in an Adventist home. She did not go to an Adventist school. But her babysitter was an Adventist and started taking her to church when she was 3.

Zarrah loved going to church with the babysitter, whom she called Auntie Freda.

At church, she learned Bible stories and memorized Bible verses.

When she came home, she recited the Bible verses to her mother.

Mother didn't know any Bible verses by heart, and she was impressed to hear the little girl repeating the Bible.

She encouraged Zarrah to keep going to the Adventist church.

But when Zarrah reached school age, Mother enrolled the girl in an elementary school operated by her own church. That was when trouble broke out.

Zarrah immediately balked at a school rule requiring children to recite a prayer to Mary, the mother of Jesus.

The school principal was surprised. But when Mother explained that Zarrah went to the Adventist church, the principal didn't insist that she recite the prayer. The principal even told the teachers not to trouble Zarrah over her beliefs.

Four years passed.

But then a new teacher scolded Zarrah when she saw that all the children except for her were reciting the prayer at a school event.

“Why aren’t you doing it?” she asked the 8-year-old girl.

“I’m a Seventh-day Adventist,” the girl said.

The teacher didn’t care about the reason.

“The school rule is that you should recite the prayer,” she said. “You have to abide by the school rules.”

Zarrah started to cry.

When she got home, she told Mother about what had happened.

Then Mother became upset. She called the principal and, the next day, came to school to talk to her.

Now it was the principal’s turn to become upset. She spoke sternly with the teacher.

The teacher stopped scolding Zarrah, but she found other ways to make her life difficult. If Zarrah raised her hand to answer a question in class, the teacher refused to acknowledge it. The teacher wouldn’t call on Zarrah even if her hand was the only one that was raised.

Zarrah felt very uncomfortable going to school and seeing the teacher.

She told Mother what was happening, and Mother decided to transfer her to an Adventist school.

But when Mother called Ebenezer Seventh-day Adventist Primary School, she learned that there was no room for any new students. Mother refused to take no for an answer. She explained the situation to the principal, and Zarrah was accepted as a new student.

Even though Zarrah didn’t have any friends when she arrived at the school, she was happy. She could worship as she believed.

A year passed, and Zarrah gave her heart to Jesus in baptism at the school. Then her mother and older sister were also baptized.

Today, Zarrah is a teacher at the Adventist school.

“One of my goals is to help children who struggle in situations similar to mine,” she said.

At home, she also follows the example of Aunt Freda. She takes a 7-year-old neighbour girl to church every Sabbath, and the girl returns home to tell her mother everything that she has learned. The mother is impressed and wants her daughter to keep going to church with Zarrah.

Zarrah said that her experience is evidence of God’s faithfulness.

“My testimony is that when you stand up for God, He will stand up for you,” she said. “Also, it is important that you know Jesus for yourself. No matter how small you are, if you are called by God, don’t decline that call. Put Jesus first.”


Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help Ebenezer Seventh-day Adventist Primary School move to a new, larger building in Dominica's capital, Roseau. The school, which was full when Zarrah's mother wanted to enrol her, remains crowded and in need of a larger facility. Thank you for planning a generous offering to help make that possible.

By Andrew McChesney

LESSON 4

“DANIEL PURPOSED IN HIS HEART”


July 20 — July 26

 **MEMORY VERSE :** For he that sows to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that sows to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.' [Galatians 6:8]

 **STUDY HELP :** ✓ The Sanctified Life, pages 18-23

 **SCRIPTURE :** 1 Peter 2:11-17

 **LESSON AIM :** To study Daniel as an example of the sanctified life.

 **INTRODUCTION :** ‘The prophet Daniel was an illustrious character. He was a bright example of what men may become when united with the God of wisdom. A brief account of the life of this holy man of God is left on record for the encouragement of those who should afterward be called to endure trial and temptation.’ — *The Sanctified Life*, page 18.

Sabbath – July 20th

1. What test met Daniel and his companions in Babylon? Daniel 1:5



NOTE : ‘Among the viands placed before the king were swine’s flesh and other meats which were declared unclean by the law of Moses, and which the Hebrews had been expressly forbidden to eat. Here Daniel was brought to a severe test. Should he adhere to the teachings of his fathers concerning meats and drinks, and offend the king, and probably lose not only his position but his life? Or should he disregard the commandment of the Lord, and retain the favour of the king, thus securing great intellectual advantages and the most flattering worldly prospects?’ — *The Sanctified Life*, page 19.

2. Heaven’s Hotline



E. G. W. Study Help 1*Sabbath, July 20th, 2024***The Sanctified Life
Chapter 2, pages 18-23****Daniel's Temperance Principles**

The prophet Daniel was an illustrious character. He was a bright example of what men may become when united with the God of wisdom. A brief account of the life of this holy man of God is left on record for the encouragement of those who should afterward be called to endure trial and temptation. {SL 18.1}

When the people of Israel, their king, nobles, and priests were carried into captivity, four of their number were selected to serve in the court of the king of Babylon. One of these was Daniel, who early gave promise of the remarkable ability developed in later years. These youth were all of princely birth, and are described as "children in whom was no blemish, but well favoured, and skilful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science, and such as had ability in them" (Daniel 1:4). Perceiving the superior talents of these youthful captives, King Nebuchadnezzar determined to prepare them to fill important positions in his kingdom. That they might be fully qualified for their life at court, according to Oriental custom, they were to be taught the language of the Chaldeans, and to be subjected for three years to a thorough course of physical and intellectual discipline. {SL 18.2}

The youth in this school of training were not only to be admitted to the royal palace, but it was provided that they should eat of the meat and drink of the wine which came from the king's table. In all this the king considered that he was not only bestowing great honour upon them, but securing for them the best physical and mental development that could be attained. {SL 19.1}

Meeting the Test

Among the viands placed before the king were swine's flesh and other meats which were declared unclean by the law of Moses, and which the Hebrews had been expressly forbidden to eat. Here Daniel was brought to a severe test. Should he adhere to the teachings of his fathers concerning meats and drinks, and offend the king, and probably lose not only his position but his life? or should he disregard the commandment of the Lord, and retain the favour of the king, thus securing great intellectual advantages and the most flattering worldly prospects? {SL 19.2}

Daniel did not long hesitate. He decided to stand firm in his integrity, let the result be what it might. He "purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank" (Daniel 1:8). {SL 19.3}

Not Narrow or Bigoted

There are many among professed Christians today who would decide that Daniel was too particular, and would pronounce him narrow and bigoted. They consider the matter of eating and drinking as of too little consequence to require such a decided stand--one involving the probable sacrifice of every earthly advantage. But those who reason thus will find in the day of judgment that they turned from God's express requirements and set up their own opinion as a standard of right and wrong. They will find that what seemed to them unimportant was not so regarded of God. His requirements should be sacredly obeyed. Those who accept and obey one of His precepts because it is convenient to do so, while they reject another because its observance would require a sacrifice, lower the standard

of right and by their example lead others to lightly regard the holy law of God. "Thus saith the Lord" is to be our rule in all things. {SL 19.4}

A Faultless Character

Daniel was subjected to the severest temptations that can assail the youth of today; yet he was true to the religious instruction received in early life. He was surrounded with influences calculated to subvert those who would vacillate between principle and inclination; yet the Word of God presents him as a faultless character. Daniel dared not trust to his own moral power. Prayer was to him a necessity. He made God his strength, and the fear of God was continually before him in all the transactions of his life. {SL 20.1}

Daniel possessed the grace of genuine meekness. He was true, firm, and noble. He sought to live in peace with all, while he was unbending as the lofty cedar wherever principle was involved. In everything that did not come in collision with his allegiance to God, he was respectful and obedient to those who had authority over him; but he had so high a sense of the claims of God that the requirements of earthly rulers were held subordinate. He would not be induced by any selfish consideration to swerve from his duty. {SL 20.2}

The character of Daniel is presented to the world as a striking example of what God's grace can make of men fallen by nature and corrupted by sin. The record of his noble, self-denying life is an encouragement to our common humanity. From it we may gather strength to nobly resist temptation, and firmly, and in the grace of meekness, stand for the right under the severest trial. {SL 21.1}

God's Approval Dearer Than Life

Daniel might have found a plausible excuse to depart from his strictly temperate habits; but the approval of God was dearer to him than the favour of the most powerful earthly potentate--dearer even than life itself. Having by his courteous conduct obtained favour with Melzar, the officer in charge of the Hebrew youth, Daniel made a request that they might not eat of the king's meat or drink of his wine. Melzar feared that should he comply with this request, he might incur the displeasure of the king, and thus endanger his own life. Like many at the present day, he thought that an abstemious diet would render these youth pale and sickly in appearance and deficient in muscular strength, while the luxurious food from the king's table would make them ruddy and beautiful and would promote physical and mental activity. {SL 21.2}

Daniel requested that the matter be decided by a ten days' trial--the Hebrew youth during this brief period being permitted to eat of simple food, while their companions partook of the king's dainties. The request was finally granted, and then Daniel felt assured that he had gained his case. Although but a youth, he had seen the injurious effects of wine and luxurious living upon physical and mental health. {SL 22.1}

God Vindicates His Servant

At the end of the ten days the result was found to be quite the opposite of Melzar's expectations. Not only in personal appearance, but in physical activity and mental vigour, those who had been temperate in their habits exhibited a marked superiority over their companions who had indulged appetite. As a result of this trial, Daniel and his associates were permitted to continue their simple diet during the whole course of their training for the duties of the kingdom. {SL 22.2}

The Lord regarded with approval the firmness and self-denial of these Hebrew youth, and His blessing attended them. He "gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams" (Daniel 1:17). At the expiration of the three years of training, when their ability and acquirements were tested by the king, he "found none like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: therefore stood they before the king. And in all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king enquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm" (verse 20). {SL 22.3}

Self-control a Condition of Sanctification

The life of Daniel is an inspired illustration of what constitutes a sanctified character. It presents a lesson for all, and especially for the young. A strict compliance with the requirements of God is beneficial to the health of body and mind. In order to reach the highest standard of moral and intellectual attainments, it is necessary to seek wisdom and strength from God and to observe strict temperance in all the habits of life. In the experience of Daniel and his companions we have an instance of the triumph of principle over temptation to indulge the appetite. It shows us that through religious principle young men may triumph over the lusts of the flesh and remain true to God's requirements, even though it cost them a great sacrifice. {SL 23.1}

What if Daniel and his companions had made a compromise with those heathen officers and had yielded to the pressure of the occasion by eating and drinking as was customary with the Babylonians? That single instance of departure from principle would have weakened their sense of right and their abhorrence of wrong. Indulgence of appetite would have involved the sacrifice of physical vigour, clearness of intellect, and spiritual power. One wrong step would probably have led to others, until, their connection with Heaven being severed, they would have been swept away by temptation. {SL 23.2}

God has said, "Them that honour me I will honour" (1 Samuel 2:30). While Daniel clung to his God with unwavering trust, the Spirit of prophetic power came upon him. While he was instructed of man in the duties of court life, he was taught of God to read the mysteries of future ages and to present to coming generations, through figures and similitudes, the wonderful things that would come to pass in the last days. {SL 24.1}

Last Day Events***Sabbath, July 20th, 2024******Last Day Events, Chapter 7, pp. 212*****“The Shaking”**

“The Latter Rain”**July 20th****We Must Humble Our Hearts in True Repentance****Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.****James 4:10**

A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs. To seek this should be our first work. There must be earnest effort to obtain the blessing of the Lord, not because God is not willing to bestow His blessing upon us, but because we are unprepared to receive it. Our heavenly Father is more willing to give His Holy Spirit to them that ask Him, than are earthly parents to give good gifts to their children. But it is our work, by confession, humiliation, repentance, and earnest prayer, to fulfill the conditions upon which God has promised to grant us His blessing. A revival need be expected only in answer to prayer.—*Selected Messages, Book 1, p. 121* (1887).

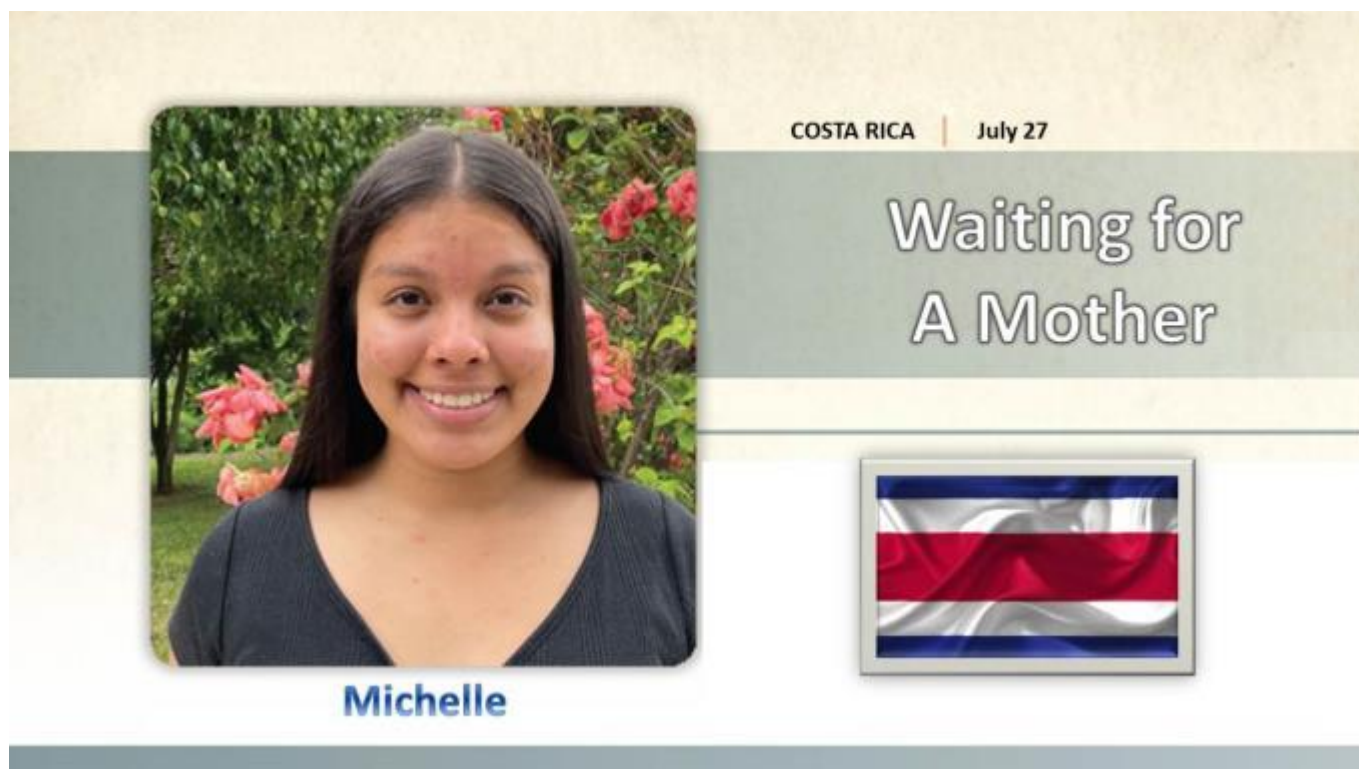
I tell you that there must be a thorough revival among us. There must be a converted ministry. There must be confessions, repentance, and conversions. Many who are preaching the Word need the transforming grace of Christ in their hearts. They should let nothing stand in the way of their making thorough work before it shall be forever too late.—*Letter 51, 1886.*

*Daily Scripture**Sabbath, July 20th, 2024***1st Samuel Chapter 21****David and the Holy Bread**

- 1Sa 21:1 Then came David to Nob to Ahimelech the priest: and Ahimelech was afraid at the meeting of David, and said unto him, Why *art* thou alone, and no man with thee?
- 1Sa 21:2 And David said unto Ahimelech the priest, The king hath commanded me a business, and hath said unto me, Let no man know anything of the business whereabouts I send thee, and what I have commanded thee: and I have appointed *my* servants to such and such a place.
- 1Sa 21:3 Now therefore what is under thine hand? give *me* five *loaves of* bread in mine hand, or what there is present.
- 1Sa 21:4 And the priest answered David, and said, *There is* no common bread under mine hand, but there is hallowed bread; if the young men have kept themselves at least from women.
- 1Sa 21:5 And David answered the priest, and said unto him, Of a truth women *have been* kept from us about these three days, since I came out, and the vessels of the young men are holy, and *the bread is* in a manner common, yea, though it were sanctified this day in the vessel.
- 1Sa 21:6 So the priest gave him hallowed *bread*: for there was no bread there but the shewbread, that was taken from before the LORD, to put hot bread in the day when it was taken away.
- 1Sa 21:7 Now a certain man of the servants of Saul *was* there that day, detained before the LORD; and his name *was* Doeg, an Edomite, the chiefest of the herdsmen that *belonged* to Saul.
- 1Sa 21:8 And David said unto Ahimelech, And is there not here under thine hand spear or sword? for I have neither brought my sword nor my weapons with me, because the king's business required haste.
- 1Sa 21:9 And the priest said, The sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom thou slew in the valley of Elah, behold, it *is here* wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod: if thou wilt take that, take *it*: for *there is* no other save that here. And David said, *There is* none like that; give it me.

David Flees to Gath

- 1Sa 21:10 And David arose, and fled that day for fear of Saul, and went to Achish the king of Gath.
- 1Sa 21:11 And the servants of Achish said unto him, *Is* not this David the king of the land? did they not sing one to another of him in dances, saying, Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands?
- 1Sa 21:12 And David laid up these words in his heart, and was sore afraid of Achish the king of Gath.
- 1Sa 21:13 And he changed his behaviour before them, and feigned himself mad in their hands, and scrabbled on the doors of the gate, and let his spittle fall down upon his beard.
- 1Sa 21:14 Then said Achish unto his servants, Lo, ye see the man is mad: wherefore *then* have ye brought him to me?
- 1Sa 21:15 Have I need of mad men, that ye have brought this *fellow* to play the mad man in my presence? shall this *fellow* come into my house?

*Children's Mission Story**Sabbath, July 20th, 2024*

Michelle was born into a family that was not like the happy families you see in storybooks. Her mother, unfortunately, had a problem with alcohol and didn't care for Michelle and her seven brothers and sisters. Eventually, she left them all alone, and as a result, Michelle and her brothers and sisters had to go to an orphanage.

Michelle was only 4½ years old when she arrived at the orphanage in Costa Rica. At the orphanage, she lived in a normal house with 11 other girls and an auntie who took care of them. They went to school, had food to eat, and got clothes and shoes. But Michelle wanted something more than food, clothes, and shoes. She wanted a mother.

Time passed, and her longing for a mother grew and grew.

When Michelle was 11, she went to a concert at the orphanage, and there she saw a beautiful woman singing gospel songs. Michelle couldn't stop looking at the woman.

A short time later, the woman, whose name was Stephanie, formed a children's choir at the orphanage. Michelle loved to sing, so she joined the choir.

Michelle saw Stephanie more and more often. Stephanie came to Michelle's house and gave Bible studies to her, the 11 other children who lived in the house, and the auntie who cared for them.

On Michelle's 12th birthday, Stephanie threw a special birthday party for all 12 girls in Michelle's house.

“We are going to celebrate everyone’s birthday!” she said.

But Michelle knew that the birthday party was especially for her.

The girls ate pizza and a white-and-green cake, and they watched a movie about a Seventh-day Adventist doctor. It was an extra-fun birthday for Michelle. She felt like Stephanie was saying, “I want you.”

On vacations, Stephanie took Michelle to church. One day, as Michelle listened to a preacher talk about God’s love, she realized that she wanted to give her heart to Jesus.

“I want to get baptized,” she whispered.

“Oh, really?” Stephanie asked.

“Yes!” Michelle said, emphatically.

Michelle was baptized. She was so happy! She knew that she was God’s daughter. She had a Father in heaven. But something was missing. She still wanted a mother on earth.

Michelle gathered all her courage and asked Stephanie, “Why don’t you adopt me?”

Stephanie was surprised and asked if she really wanted it. Michelle’s answer was a resounding “Yes!”

Stephanie cautioned that adoption wasn’t an easy path. They needed government permission, and there were many hurdles to overcome. But they decided to try.

One day, Stephanie came to the orphanage with big news.

“Pack your things because you are going home with us,” she said.

Michelle couldn’t believe it. She was finally going to have her own family. She packed her things and left. She was so happy! Finally, she had a real mother.

Now Michelle is studying to become a nurse at the Adventist university in Costa Rica. She dreams of becoming a missionary nurse one day. She wants to help others, just like her adopted mother helped her.

But Michelle knows that not all children are as fortunate as she is. “You are an exception,” her adopted mother says. “But what happens to the other ones?”

In Costa Rica, when children turn 18, they have to leave the orphanage and find work. Many end up with no future, falling into problems like alcohol and drugs. That’s why Michelle and her adopted mother are working together to give Bible studies at Michelle’s old orphanage.

Part of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering is going to Costa Rica, where it will help orphans and other at-risk children learn about God. Thank you for planning a generous offering on September 28.

By Andrew McChesney

Sunday – July 21st

1. What was the outcome of the test Daniel proposed?

- Daniel 1:14-16 —
- Daniel 1:19-20 —

NOTE : ‘At the end of the ten days the result was found to be quite the opposite of Melzar’s expectations. Not only in personal appearance, but in physical activity and mental vigour, those who had been temperate in their habits exhibited a marked superiority over their companions who had indulged appetite. As a result of this trial, Daniel and his associates were permitted to continue their simple diet during the whole course of their training for the duties of the kingdom.’ — *The Sanctified Life*, page 22.

2. What was Daniel’s reputation with Ashpenaz, the prince of the eunuchs?

- Daniel 1:9 —

NOTE : ‘God brought Daniel into favour with the prince of the eunuchs because he behaved himself. He kept before him the fear of the Lord. His companions never saw in his life anything that would lead them astray. Those who had charge over him loved him because he carried with him the fragrance of a Christlike disposition.’ — *Sermons & Talks*, volume 1, page 315.

3. Heaven’s Hotline

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Last Day Events

Sunday, July 21st, 2024

Last Day Events, Chapter 7, pp. 213

“The Shaking”

“The Latter Rain”

July 21st

Reformation Must Accompany Revival

Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;

Romans 12:12

A revival and a reformation must take place, under the ministration of the Holy Spirit. Revival and reformation are two different things. Revival signifies a renewal of spiritual life, a quickening of the powers of mind and heart, a resurrection from spiritual death. Reformation signifies a reorganization, a change in ideas and theories, habits and practices. Reformation will not bring forth the good fruit of righteousness unless it is connected with the revival of the Spirit. Revival and reformation are to do their appointed work, and in doing this work they must blend.—*Review and Herald, Feb. 25, 1902.*

Daily Scripture**Sunday, July 21st, 2024****1st Samuel Chapter 22****David at the Cave of Adullam**

- 1Sa 22:1 David therefore departed thence, and escaped to the cave Adullam: and when his brethren and all his father's house heard *it*, they went down thither to him.
- 1Sa 22:2 And every one *that was* in distress, and every one that *was* in debt, and every one *that was* discontented, gathered themselves unto him; and he became a captain over them: and there were with him about four hundred men.
- 1Sa 22:3 And David went thence to Mizpeh of Moab: and he said unto the king of Moab, Let my father and my mother, I pray thee, come forth, *and be* with you, till I know what God will do for me.
- 1Sa 22:4 And he brought them before the king of Moab: and they dwelt with him all the while that David was in the hold.
- 1Sa 22:5 And the prophet Gad said unto David, Abide not in the hold; depart, and get thee into the land of Judah. Then David departed, and came into the forest of Hareth.

Saul Kills the Priests at Nob

- 1Sa 22:6 When Saul heard that David was discovered, and the men that *were* with him, (now Saul abode in Gibeah under a tree in Ramah, having his spear in his hand, and all his servants *were* standing about him;)
- 1Sa 22:7 Then Saul said unto his servants that stood about him, Hear now, ye Benjamites; will the son of Jesse give every one of you fields and vineyards, *and* make you all captains of thousands, and captains of hundreds;
- 1Sa 22:8 That all of you have conspired against me, and *there is* none that shows me that my son hath made a league with the son of Jesse, and *there is* none of you that is sorry for me, or shows unto me that my son hath stirred up my servant against me, to lie in wait, as at this day?
- 1Sa 22:9 Then answered Doeg the Edomite, which was set over the servants of Saul, and said, I saw the son of Jesse coming to Nob, to Ahimelech the son of Ahitub.
- 1Sa 22:10 And he enquired of the LORD for him, and gave him victuals, and gave him the sword of Goliath the Philistine.
- 1Sa 22:11 Then the king sent to call Ahimelech the priest, the son of Ahitub, and all his father's house, the priests that *were* in Nob: and they came all of them to the king.
- 1Sa 22:12 And Saul said, Hear now, thou son of Ahitub. And he answered, Here I *am*, my lord.
- 1Sa 22:13 And Saul said unto him, Why have ye conspired against me, thou and the son of Jesse, in that thou hast given him bread, and a sword, and hast enquired of God for him, that he should rise against me, to lie in wait, as at this day?
- 1Sa 22:14 Then Ahimelech answered the king, and said, And who *is so* faithful among all thy servants as David, which is the king's son in law, and goeth at thy bidding, and is honourable in thine house?
- 1Sa 22:15 Did I then begin to enquire of God for him? be it far from me: let not the king impute *anything* unto his servant, *nor* to all the house of my father: for thy servant knew nothing of all this, less or more.
- 1Sa 22:16 And the king said, Thou shalt surely die, Ahimelech, thou, and all thy father's house.
- 1Sa 22:17 And the king said unto the footmen that stood about him, Turn, and slay the priests of the LORD; because their hand also *is* with David, and because they knew when he fled, and did not shew it to me. But the servants of the king would not put forth their hand to fall upon the priests of the LORD.
- 1Sa 22:18 And the king said to Doeg, Turn thou, and fall upon the priests. And Doeg the Edomite turned, and he fell upon the priests, and slew on that day fourscore and five persons that did wear a linen ephod.
- 1Sa 22:19 And Nob, the city of the priests, smote he with the edge of the sword, both men and women, children and sucklings, and oxen, and asses, and sheep, with the edge of the sword.
- 1Sa 22:20 And one of the sons of Ahimelech the son of Ahitub, named Abiathar, escaped, and fled after David.

- 1Sa 22:21 And Abiathar shewed David that Saul had slain the LORD'S priests.
- 1Sa 22:22 And David said unto Abiathar, I knew *it* that day, when Doeg the Edomite *was* there, that he would surely tell Saul: I have occasioned *the death* of all the persons of thy father's house.
- 1Sa 22:23 Abide thou with me, fear not: for he that seeks my life seeks thy life: but with me thou *shalt be* in safeguard.

Monday – July 22nd

1. What is the Lord's attitude to those who are faithful in little things?

➤ **Matthew 25:21** —

NOTE : 'There are many among professed Christians today who would decide that Daniel was too particular, and would pronounce him narrow and bigoted. They consider the matter of eating and drinking as of too little consequence to require such a decided stand, one involving the probable sacrifice of every earthly advantage. But those who reason thus will find in the day of judgment that they turned from God's express requirements and set up their own opinion as a standard of right and wrong. They will find that what seemed to them unimportant was not so regarded of God. His requirements should be sacredly obeyed. Those who accept and obey one of His precepts because it is convenient to do so, while they reject another because its observance would require a sacrifice, lower the standard of right and by their example lead others to lightly regard the holy law of God. "Thus says the Lord" is to be our rule in all things.' — *The Sanctified Life*, page 19.

2. What was Daniel's reputation even among his rivals and enemies?

➤ **Daniel 6:4-5** —

NOTE : "Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm." The honours bestowed upon Daniel excited the jealousy of the leading men of the kingdom, and they sought for occasion of complaint against him. But they could find none, "forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him. Daniel's blameless conduct excited still further the jealousy of his enemies. "We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel," they were constrained to acknowledge, "except we find it against him concerning the law of his God." — *Prophets & Kings*, page 539.

3. Heaven's Hotline

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Last Day Events***Monday, July 22nd, 2024******Last Day Events, Chapter 7, pp. 214*****“The Shaking”**

“The Latter Rain”**July 22nd****We Must Put Away All Strife and Dissension****And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.****Acts 2:1**

When the labourers have an abiding Christ in their own souls, when all selfishness is dead, when there is no rivalry, no strife for the supremacy, when oneness exists, when they sanctify themselves, so that love for one another is seen and felt, then the showers of the grace of the Holy Spirit will just as surely come upon them as that God's promise will never fail in one jot or tittle. But when the work of others is discounted, that the workers may show their own superiority, they prove that their own work does not bear the signature it should. God cannot bless them. —*Selected Messages, Book 1, p. 175 (1896).*

If we stand in the great day of the Lord with Christ as our refuge, our high tower, we must put away all envy, all strife for the supremacy. We must utterly destroy the roots of these unholy things, that they may not again spring up into life. We must place ourselves wholly on the side of the Lord.—*This Day with God, p. 258 (1903).*

Let Christians put away all dissension and give themselves to God for the saving of the lost. Let them ask in faith for the promised blessing, and it will come.—*Testimonies for the Church, vol. 8, p. 21 (1904).*

Daily Scripture**Monday, July 22nd, 2024****1st Samuel Chapter 23****David Saves the City of Keilah**

- 1Sa 23:1 Then they told David, saying, Behold, the Philistines fight against Keilah, and they rob the threshingfloors.
- 1Sa 23:2 Therefore David enquired of the LORD, saying, Shall I go and smite these Philistines? And the LORD said unto David, Go, and smite the Philistines, and save Keilah.
- 1Sa 23:3 And David's men said unto him, Behold, we be afraid here in Judah: how much more then if we come to Keilah against the armies of the Philistines?
- 1Sa 23:4 Then David enquired of the LORD yet again. And the LORD answered him and said, Arise, go down to Keilah; for I will deliver the Philistines into thine hand.
- 1Sa 23:5 So David and his men went to Keilah, and fought with the Philistines, and brought away their cattle, and smote them with a great slaughter. So David saved the inhabitants of Keilah.
- 1Sa 23:6 And it came to pass, when Abiathar the son of Ahimelech fled to David to Keilah, *that* he came down *with* an ephod in his hand.
- 1Sa 23:7 And it was told Saul that David was come to Keilah. And Saul said, God hath delivered him into mine hand; for he is shut in, by entering into a town that hath gates and bars.
- 1Sa 23:8 And Saul called all the people together to war, to go down to Keilah, to besiege David and his men.
- 1Sa 23:9 And David knew that Saul secretly practised mischief against him; and he said to Abiathar the priest, Bring hither the ephod.
- 1Sa 23:10 Then said David, O LORD God of Israel, thy servant hath certainly heard that Saul seeks to come to Keilah, to destroy the city for my sake.
- 1Sa 23:11 Will the men of Keilah deliver me up into his hand? will Saul come down, as thy servant hath heard? O LORD God of Israel, I beseech thee, tell thy servant. And the LORD said, He will come down.
- 1Sa 23:12 Then said David, Will the men of Keilah deliver me and my men into the hand of Saul? And the LORD said, They will deliver *thee* up.
- 1Sa 23:13 Then David and his men, *which were* about six hundred, arose and departed out of Keilah, and went whithersoever they could go. And it was told Saul that David was escaped from Keilah; and he forbear to go forth.
- 1Sa 23:14 And David abode in the wilderness in strong holds, and remained in a mountain in the wilderness of Ziph. And Saul sought him every day, but God delivered him not into his hand.

Saul Pursues David

- 1Sa 23:15 And David saw that Saul was come out to seek his life: and David *was* in the wilderness of Ziph in a wood.
- 1Sa 23:16 And Jonathan Saul's son arose, and went to David into the wood, and strengthened his hand in God.
- 1Sa 23:17 And he said unto him, Fear not: for the hand of Saul my father shall not find thee; and thou shalt be king over Israel, and I shall be next unto thee; and that also Saul my father knows.
- 1Sa 23:18 And they two made a covenant before the LORD: and David abode in the wood, and Jonathan went to his house.
- 1Sa 23:19 Then came up the Ziphites to Saul to Gibeah, saying, Doth not David hide himself with us in strong holds in the wood, in the hill of Hachilah, *which is* on the south of Jeshimon?
- 1Sa 23:20 Now therefore, O king, come down according to all the desire of thy soul to come down; and our part *shall be* to deliver him into the king's hand.
- 1Sa 23:21 And Saul said, Blessed *be* ye of the LORD; for ye have compassion on me.
- 1Sa 23:22 Go, I pray you, prepare yet, and know and see his place where his haunt is, *and* who hath seen him there: for it is told me *that* he deals very subtly.

- 1Sa 23:23 See therefore, and take knowledge of all the lurking places where he hides himself, and come ye again to me with the certainty, and I will go with you: and it shall come to pass, if he be in the land, that I will search him out throughout all the thousands of Judah.
- 1Sa 23:24 And they arose, and went to Ziph before Saul: but David and his men *were* in the wilderness of Maon, in the plain on the south of Jeshimon.
- 1Sa 23:25 Saul also and his men went to seek *him*. And they told David: wherefore he came down into a rock, and abode in the wilderness of Maon. And when Saul heard *that*, he pursued after David in the wilderness of Maon.
- 1Sa 23:26 And Saul went on this side of the mountain, and David and his men on that side of the mountain: and David made haste to get away for fear of Saul; for Saul and his men compassed David and his men round about to take them.
- 1Sa 23:27 But there came a messenger unto Saul, saying, Haste thee, and come; for the Philistines have invaded the land.
- 1Sa 23:28 Wherefore Saul returned from pursuing after David, and went against the Philistines: therefore they called that place Selahammahlekoth.
- 1Sa 23:29 And David went up from thence, and dwelt in strong holds at Engedi.

Tuesday – July 23rd

1. With which great men of old was Daniel associated, even in his lifetime?

- **Ezekiel 14:14** —
- **Ezekiel 14:20** —

NOTE : ‘A desire to glorify God should be to us the most powerful of all motives. It should lead us to make every exertion to improve the privileges and opportunities provided for us, to use wisely the Lord’s goods. It should lead us to keep brain, bone, and muscle in the most healthful condition, that our physical strength and mental clearness may help us to be faithful stewards. Selfish interest must ever be held subordinate; for if given room to act, it contracts the intellect, hardens the heart, and weakens moral power. Daniel was regarded by the Lord as a man, because he was a steward who traded faithfully on his Lord’s goods. He did not forget God, but placed himself in the channel of light, where he could commune with God in prayer.’ — *Lift Him Up*, page 366.

2. How did Daniel react when his worship of God was made illegal?

- **Daniel 6:10** —

NOTE : ‘The prophet’s enemies counted on Daniel’s firm adherence to principle for the success of their plan. And they were not mistaken in their estimate of his character. He quickly read their malignant purpose in framing the decree, but he did not change his course in a single particular. Why should he cease to pray now, when he most needed to pray? Rather would he relinquish life itself, than his hope of help in God. With calmness he performed his duties as chief of the princes; and at the hour of prayer he went to his chamber, and with his windows open toward Jerusalem, in accordance with his usual custom, he offered his petition to the God of heaven. He did not try to conceal his act.’ — *Prophets & Kings*, page 540.

‘Watch and pray. Let your prayers be fervent. Let this be the language of your heart, “I will not let Thee go unless Thou bless me.” Have a set time, a special season for prayer at least three times a day. Morning, noon, and at night Daniel prayed to his God, notwithstanding the king’s decree, and the fearful den of lions. He was not ashamed, or afraid to pray, but with his windows opened he prayed three times a day. Did God forget His faithful servant when he was cast into the lion’s den? Oh no. He was with him there all night. He closed the mouths of these hungry lions, and they could not hurt the praying man of God.’ — *Youth’s Instructor*, October 1, 1855.

3. Heaven’s Hotline

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Last Day Events

Tuesday, July 23rd, 2024

Last Day Events, Chapter 7, pp. 215

“The Shaking”

“The Latter Rain”

July 23rd

Love One Another

For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.

1 John 3:11

Christianity is the revealing of the tenderest affection for one another. . . . Christ is to receive supreme love from the beings He has created. And He requires also that man shall cherish a sacred regard for his fellow beings. Every soul saved will be saved through love, which begins with God. True conversion is a change from selfishness to sanctified affection for God and for one another.—*Selected Messages, Book 1, p. 114, 115 (1901)*.

The attributes which God prizes most are charity and purity. These attributes should be cherished by every Christian.—*Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, p. 85 (1882)*.

The strongest argument in favour of the gospel is a loving and lovable Christian.—*The Ministry of Healing, p. 470 (1905)*.

Daily Scripture**Tuesday, July 23rd, 2024****1st Samuel Chapter 24****David Spares Saul's Life**

- 1Sa 24:1 And it came to pass, when Saul was returned from following the Philistines, that it was told him, saying, Behold, David *is* in the wilderness of Engedi.
- 1Sa 24:2 Then Saul took three thousand chosen men out of all Israel, and went to seek David and his men upon the rocks of the wild goats.
- 1Sa 24:3 And he came to the sheepcotes by the way, where *was* a cave; and Saul went in to cover his feet: and David and his men remained in the sides of the cave.
- 1Sa 24:4 And the men of David said unto him, Behold the day of which the LORD said unto thee, Behold, I will deliver thine enemy into thine hand, that thou may do to him as it shall seem good unto thee. Then David arose, and cut off the skirt of Saul's robe privily.
- 1Sa 24:5 And it came to pass afterward, that David's heart smote him, because he had cut off Saul's skirt.
- 1Sa 24:6 And he said unto his men, The LORD forbid that I should do this thing unto my master, the LORD'S anointed, to stretch forth mine hand against him, seeing he *is* the anointed of the LORD.
- 1Sa 24:7 So David stayed his servants with these words, and suffered them not to rise against Saul. But Saul rose up out of the cave, and went on *his* way.
- 1Sa 24:8 David also arose afterward, and went out of the cave, and cried after Saul, saying, My lord the king. And when Saul looked behind him, David stooped with his face to the earth, and bowed himself.
- 1Sa 24:9 And David said to Saul, Wherefore hear thou men's words, saying, Behold, David seek thy hurt?
- 1Sa 24:10 Behold, this day thine eyes have seen how that the LORD had delivered thee to day into mine hand in the cave: and *some* bade *me* kill thee: but *mine eye* spared thee; and I said, I will not put forth mine hand against my lord; for he *is* the LORD'S anointed.
- 1Sa 24:11 Moreover, my father, see, yea, see the skirt of thy robe in my hand: for in that I cut off the skirt of thy robe, and killed thee not, know thou and see that *there is* neither evil nor transgression in mine hand, and I have not sinned against thee; yet thou hunt my soul to take it.
- 1Sa 24:12 The LORD judge between me and thee, and the LORD avenge me of thee: but mine hand shall not be upon thee.
- 1Sa 24:13 As saith the proverb of the ancients, Wickedness proceeds from the wicked: but mine hand shall not be upon thee.
- 1Sa 24:14 After whom is the king of Israel come out? after whom dost thou pursue? after a dead dog, after a flea.
- 1Sa 24:15 The LORD therefore be judge, and judge between me and thee, and see, and plead my cause, and deliver me out of thine hand.
- 1Sa 24:16 And it came to pass, when David had made an end of speaking these words unto Saul, that Saul said, *Is* this thy voice, my son David? And Saul lifted up his voice, and wept.
- 1Sa 24:17 And he said to David, Thou *art* more righteous than I: for thou hast rewarded me good, whereas I have rewarded thee evil.
- 1Sa 24:18 And thou hast shewed this day how that thou hast dealt well with me: forasmuch as when the LORD had delivered me into thine hand, thou killed me not.
- 1Sa 24:19 For if a man find his enemy, will he let him go well away? wherefore the LORD reward thee good for that thou hast done unto me this day.
- 1Sa 24:20 And now, behold, I know well that thou shalt surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established in thine hand.
- 1Sa 24:21 Swear now therefore unto me by the LORD, that thou wilt not cut off my seed after me, and that thou wilt not destroy my name out of my father's house.
- 1Sa 24:22 And David sware unto Saul. And Saul went home; but David and his men got them up unto the hold.

Wednesday – July 24th

1. What principle was Daniel following?

➤ Acts 5:29 —

NOTE : ‘Although he knew full well the consequences of his fidelity to God, his spirit faltered not. Before those who were plotting his ruin, he would not allow it even to appear that his connection with Heaven was severed. In all cases where the king had a right to command, Daniel would obey; but neither the king nor his decree could make him swerve from allegiance to the King of kings.’ — *Prophets & Kings*, page 542.

2. How did God vindicate His faithful servant?

➤ Daniel 6:22 —

NOTE : ‘God did not prevent Daniel’s enemies from casting him into the lions’ den; He permitted evil angels and wicked men thus far to accomplish their purpose; but it was that He might make the deliverance of His servant more marked, and the defeat of the enemies of truth and righteousness more complete. “Surely the wrath of man shall praise Thee” (Psalm 76:10), the psalmist has testified. Through the courage of this one man who chose to follow right rather than policy, Satan was to be defeated, and the name of God was to be exalted and honoured.’ — *Prophets & Kings*, page 543.

3. Heaven’s Hotline

➤

Last Day Events***Wednesday, July 24th, 2024******Last Day Events, Chapter 7, pp. 216*****“The Shaking”**

“The Latter Rain”**July 24th****Total Surrender Required**

Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter therein.

Luke 18:17

God will accept nothing less than unreserved surrender. Half-hearted, sinful Christians can never enter heaven. There they would find no happiness, for they know nothing of the high, holy principles that govern the members of the royal family. The true Christian keeps the windows of the soul open heavenward. He lives in fellowship with Christ. His will is conformed to the will of Christ. His highest desire is to become more and more Christlike.—*The Review and Herald*, May 16, 1907.

We cannot use the Holy Spirit. The Spirit is to use us. Through the Spirit God works in His people "to will and to do of His good pleasure" (Philippians 2:13). But many will not submit to this. They want to manage themselves. This is why they do not receive the heavenly gift. Only to those who wait humbly upon God, who watch for His guidance and grace, is the Spirit given.—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 672 (1898).

Daily Scripture**Wednesday, July 24th, 2024****1st Samuel Chapter 25****The Death of Samuel**

- 1Sa 25:1 And Samuel died; and all the Israelites were gathered together, and lamented him, and buried him in his house at Ramah. And David arose, and went down to the wilderness of Paran.
- 1Sa 25:2 And *there was* a man in Maon, whose possessions *were* in Carmel; and the man *was* very great, and he had three thousand sheep, and a thousand goats: and he was shearing his sheep in Carmel.
- 1Sa 25:3 Now the name of the man *was* Nabal; and the name of his wife Abigail: and *she was* a woman of good understanding, and of a beautiful countenance: but the man *was* churlish and evil in his doings; and he *was* of the house of Caleb.
- 1Sa 25:4 And David heard in the wilderness that Nabal did shear his sheep.
- 1Sa 25:5 And David sent out ten young men, and David said unto the young men, Get you up to Carmel, and go to Nabal, and greet him in my name:
- 1Sa 25:6 And thus shall ye say to him that lives *in prosperity*, Peace *be* both to thee, and peace *be* to thine house, and peace *be* unto all that thou hast.
- 1Sa 25:7 And now I have heard that thou hast shearers: now thy shepherds which were with us, we hurt them not, neither was there ought missing unto them, all the while they were in Carmel.
- 1Sa 25:8 Ask thy young men, and they will shew thee. Wherefore let the young men find favour in thine eyes: for we come in a good day: give, I pray thee, whatsoever cometh to thine hand unto thy servants, and to thy son David.
- 1Sa 25:9 And when David's young men came, they spake to Nabal according to all those words in the name of David, and ceased.
- 1Sa 25:10 And Nabal answered David's servants, and said, Who *is* David? and who *is* the son of Jesse? there be many servants now a days that break away every man from his master.
- 1Sa 25:11 Shall I then take my bread, and my water, and my flesh that I have killed for my shearers, and give *it* unto men, whom I know not whence they *be*?
- 1Sa 25:12 So David's young men turned their way, and went again, and came and told him all those sayings.
- 1Sa 25:13 And David said unto his men, Gird ye on every man his sword. And they girded on every man his sword; and David also girded on his sword: and there went up after David about four hundred men; and two hundred abode by the stuff.
- 1Sa 25:14 But one of the young men told Abigail, Nabal's wife, saying, Behold, David sent messengers out of the wilderness to salute our master; and he railed on them.
- 1Sa 25:15 But the men *were* very good unto us, and we were not hurt, neither missed we anything, as long as we were conversant with them, when we were in the fields:
- 1Sa 25:16 They were a wall unto us both by night and day, all the while we were with them keeping the sheep.
- 1Sa 25:17 Now therefore know and consider what thou wilt do; for evil is determined against our master, and against all his household: for he *is such* a son of Belial, that *a man* cannot speak to him.
- 1Sa 25:18 Then Abigail made haste, and took two hundred loaves, and two bottles of wine, and five sheep ready dressed, and five measures of parched *corn*, and an hundred clusters of raisins, and two hundred cakes of figs, and laid *them* on asses.
- 1Sa 25:19 And she said unto her servants, Go on before me; behold, I come after you. But she told not her husband Nabal.
- 1Sa 25:20 And it was *so, as* she rode on the ass, that she came down by the covert of the hill, and, behold, David and his men came down against her; and she met them.
- 1Sa 25:21 Now David had said, Surely in vain have I kept all that this *fellow* hath in the wilderness, so that nothing was missed of all that *pertained* unto him: and he hath requited me evil for good.
- 1Sa 25:22 So and more also do God unto the enemies of David, if I leave of all that *pertain* to him by the morning light any that pisses against the wall.

- 1Sa 25:23 And when Abigail saw David, she hasted, and lighted off the ass, and fell before David on her face, and bowed herself to the ground,
- 1Sa 25:24 And fell at his feet, and said, Upon me, my lord, *upon me let this iniquity be*: and let thine handmaid, I pray thee, speak in thine audience, and hear the words of thine handmaid.
- 1Sa 25:25 Let not my lord, I pray thee, regard this man of Belial, *even* Nabal: for as his name *is*, so *is* he; Nabal *is* his name, and folly *is* with him: but I your handmaid saw not the young men of my lord, whom thou didst send.
- 1Sa 25:26 Now therefore, my lord, *as* the LORD lives, and *as* thy soul lives, seeing the LORD hath withheld thee from coming to *shed* blood, and from avenging thyself with thine own hand, now let thine enemies, and they that seek evil to my lord, be as Nabal.
- 1Sa 25:27 And now this blessing which thine handmaid hath brought unto my lord, let it even be given unto the young men that follow my lord.
- 1Sa 25:28 I pray thee, forgive the trespass of thine handmaid: for the LORD will certainly make my lord a sure house; because my lord fights the battles of the LORD, and evil hath not been found in thee *all* thy days.
- 1Sa 25:29 Yet a man is risen to pursue thee, and to seek thy soul: but the soul of my lord shall be bound in the bundle of life with the LORD thy God; and the souls of thine enemies, them shall he sling out, *as out* of the middle of a sling.
- 1Sa 25:30 And it shall come to pass, when the LORD shall have done to my lord according to all the good that he hath spoken concerning thee, and shall have appointed thee ruler over Israel;
- 1Sa 25:31 That this shall be no grief unto thee, nor offence of heart unto my lord, either that thou hast shed blood causeless, or that my lord hath avenged himself: but when the LORD shall have dealt well with my lord, then remember thine handmaid.
- 1Sa 25:32 And David said to Abigail, Blessed *be* the LORD God of Israel, which sent thee this day to meet me:
- 1Sa 25:33 And blessed *be* thy advice, and blessed *be* thou, which hast kept me this day from coming to *shed* blood, and from avenging myself with mine own hand.
- 1Sa 25:34 For in very deed, *as* the LORD God of Israel lives, which hath kept me back from hurting thee, except thou had hasted and come to meet me, surely there had not been left unto Nabal by the morning light any that pisses against the wall.
- 1Sa 25:35 So David received of her hand *that* which she had brought him, and said unto her, Go up in peace to thine house; see, I have hearkened to thy voice, and have accepted thy person.
- 1Sa 25:36 And Abigail came to Nabal; and, behold, he held a feast in his house, like the feast of a king; and Nabal's heart *was* merry within him, for he *was* very drunken: wherefore she told him nothing, less or more, until the morning light.
- 1Sa 25:37 But it came to pass in the morning, when the wine was gone out of Nabal, and his wife had told him these things, that his heart died within him, and he became *as* a stone.
- 1Sa 25:38 And it came to pass about ten days *after*, that the LORD smote Nabal, that he died.
- 1Sa 25:39 And when David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, Blessed *be* the LORD, that hath pleaded the cause of my reproach from the hand of Nabal, and hath kept his servant from evil: for the LORD hath returned the wickedness of Nabal upon his own head. And David sent and communed with Abigail, to take her to him to wife.
- 1Sa 25:40 And when the servants of David were come to Abigail to Carmel, they spake unto her, saying, David sent us unto thee, to take thee to him to wife.
- 1Sa 25:41 And she arose, and bowed herself on *her* face to the earth, and said, Behold, *let* thine handmaid *be* a servant to wash the feet of the servants of my lord.
- 1Sa 25:42 And Abigail hasted, and arose, and rode upon an ass, with five damsels of hers that went after her; and she went after the messengers of David, and became his wife.
- 1Sa 25:43 David also took Ahinoam of Jezreel; and they were also both of them his wives.
- 1Sa 25:44 But Saul had given Michal his daughter, David's wife, to Phalti the son of Laish, which *was* of Gallim.

Thursday – July 25th

1. What powerful impression was made on the king by Daniel's faithfulness?

➤ **Daniel 6:25-27** —

NOTE : 'The Lord will work for those who put their trust in Him. Precious victories will be gained by the faithful. Precious lessons will be learned. Precious experiences will be realised that will be of the greatest advantage in times of trial and temptation. Those who will give all the glory to God, not taking credit to themselves, will be trusted with more and more of the blessing of God. The Lord will be magnified by those who honour Him in the midst of the people. The trial that has been borne with patience, the test that has been met with faithfulness, will prove them worthy of responsibility, and God will make them agents to carry out His will. They will be made stewards of His grace, as honoured servants of God.' —*Signs of the Times, May 25, 1888.*

2. Heaven's Hotline

➤

Last Day Events***Thursday, July 25th, 2024******Last Day Events, Chapter 7, pp. 217*****“The Shaking”**

“The Latter Rain”**July 25th****Clearing the Way for the Latter Rain**

Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

Romans 6:16

I saw that none could share the "refreshing" unless they obtain the victory over every besetment, over pride, selfishness, love of the world, and over every wrong word and action. We should therefore be drawing nearer and nearer to the Lord and be earnestly seeking that preparation necessary to enable us to stand in the battle in the day of the Lord.—*Early Writings*, p. 71 (1851).

It is left with us to remedy the defects in our characters, to cleanse the soul temple of every defilement. Then the latter rain will fall upon us as the early rain fell upon the disciples on the Day of Pentecost.—*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 214 (1882).

There is nothing that Satan fears so much as that the people of God shall clear the way by removing every hindrance, so that the Lord can pour out His Spirit upon a languishing church. . . . Every temptation, every opposing influence, whether open or secret, may be successfully resisted, "not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts" (Zechariah 4:6).--1SM 124 (1887). The latter rain will come, and the blessing of God will fill every soul that is purified from every defilement. It is our work today to yield our souls to Christ, that we may be fitted for the time of refreshing from the presence of the Lord--fitted for the baptism of the Holy Spirit.—*Selected Messages, Book 1*, p. 191 (1892).)

Daily Scripture**Thursday, July 25th, 2024****1st Samuel Chapter 26****David Spares Saul Again**

- 1Sa 26:1 And the Ziphites came unto Saul to Gibeah, saying, Doth not David hide himself in the hill of Hachilah, *which is* before Jeshimon?
- 1Sa 26:2 Then Saul arose, and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, having three thousand chosen men of Israel with him, to seek David in the wilderness of Ziph.
- 1Sa 26:3 And Saul pitched in the hill of Hachilah, which *is* before Jeshimon, by the way. But David abode in the wilderness, and he saw that Saul came after him into the wilderness.
- 1Sa 26:4 David therefore sent out spies, and understood that Saul was come in very deed.
- 1Sa 26:5 And David arose, and came to the place where Saul had pitched: and David beheld the place where Saul lay, and Abner the son of Ner, the captain of his host: and Saul lay in the trench, and the people pitched round about him.
- 1Sa 26:6 Then answered David and said to Ahimelech the Hittite, and to Abishai the son of Zeruiah, brother to Joab, saying, Who will go down with me to Saul to the camp? And Abishai said, I will go down with thee.
- 1Sa 26:7 So David and Abishai came to the people by night: and, behold, Saul lay sleeping within the trench, and his spear stuck in the ground at his bolster: but Abner and the people lay round about him.
- 1Sa 26:8 Then said Abishai to David, God hath delivered thine enemy into thine hand this day: now therefore let me smite him, I pray thee, with the spear even to the earth at once, and I will not *smite* him the second time.
- 1Sa 26:9 And David said to Abishai, Destroy him not: for who can stretch forth his hand against the LORD'S anointed, and be guiltless?
- 1Sa 26:10 David said furthermore, *As* the LORD lives, the LORD shall smite him; or his day shall come to die; or he shall descend into battle, and perish.
- 1Sa 26:11 The LORD forbid that I should stretch forth mine hand against the LORD'S anointed: but, I pray thee, take thou now the spear that *is* at his bolster, and the cruse of water, and let us go.
- 1Sa 26:12 So David took the spear and the cruse of water from Saul's bolster; and they got them away, and no man saw *it*, nor knew *it*, neither awaked: for they *were* all asleep; because a deep sleep from the LORD was fallen upon them.
- 1Sa 26:13 Then David went over to the other side, and stood on the top of an hill afar off; a great space *being* between them:
- 1Sa 26:14 And David cried to the people, and to Abner the son of Ner, saying, Answer thou not, Abner? Then Abner answered and said, Who *art* thou *that* cries to the king?
- 1Sa 26:15 And David said to Abner, *Art* not thou a *valiant* man? and who *is* like to thee in Israel? wherefore then hast thou not kept thy lord the king? for there came one of the people in to destroy the king thy lord.
- 1Sa 26:16 This thing *is* not good that thou hast done. *As* the LORD lives, ye *are* worthy to die, because ye have not kept your master, the LORD'S anointed. And now see where the king's spear *is*, and the cruse of water that *was* at his bolster.
- 1Sa 26:17 And Saul knew David's voice, and said, *Is* this thy voice, my son David? And David said, *It is* my voice, my lord, O king.
- 1Sa 26:18 And he said, Wherefore doth my lord thus pursue after his servant? for what have I done? or what evil *is* in mine hand?
- 1Sa 26:19 Now therefore, I pray thee, let my lord the king hear the words of his servant. If the LORD have stirred thee up against me, let him accept an offering: but if *they be* the children of men, cursed *be* they before the LORD; for they have driven me out this day from abiding in the inheritance of the LORD, saying, Go, serve other gods.

- 1Sa 26:20 Now therefore, let not my blood fall to the earth before the face of the LORD: for the king of Israel is come out to seek a flea, as when one doth hunt a partridge in the mountains.
- 1Sa 26:21 Then said Saul, I have sinned: return, my son David: for I will no more do thee harm, because my soul was precious in thine eyes this day: behold, I have played the fool, and have erred exceedingly.
- 1Sa 26:22 And David answered and said, Behold the king's spear! and let one of the young men come over and fetch it.
- 1Sa 26:23 The LORD render to every man his righteousness and his faithfulness: for the LORD delivered thee into *my* hand to day, but I would not stretch forth mine hand against the LORD'S anointed.
- 1Sa 26:24 And, behold, as thy life was much set by this day in mine eyes, so let my life be much set by in the eyes of the LORD, and let him deliver me out of all tribulation.
- 1Sa 26:25 Then Saul said to David, Blessed *be* thou, my son David: thou shalt both do great *things*, and also shalt still prevail. So David went on his way, and Saul returned to his place.

*Preparation Day – July 26th***1. How does Daniel's experience compare with those of Eve and Jesus?**

- **Daniel 1:8** —
- **Genesis 3:6** —
- **Matthew 4:3-4** —

NOTE : 'The life of Daniel is an inspired illustration of what constitutes a sanctified character. It presents a lesson for all, and especially for the young. A strict compliance with the requirements of God is beneficial to the health of body and mind. In order to reach the highest standard of moral and intellectual attainments, it is necessary to seek wisdom and strength from God and to observe strict temperance in all the habits of life. In the experience of Daniel and his companions we have an instance of the triumph of principle over temptation to indulge the appetite. It shows us that through religious principle young men may triumph over the lusts of the flesh and remain true to God's requirements, even though it cost them a great sacrifice.' —*The Sanctified Life*, page 23.

2. Heaven's Hotline

Last Day Events***Preparation Day, July 26th, 2024******Last Day Events, Chapter 7, pp. 218*****“The Shaking”**

“The Latter Rain”**July 26th****Become Active Labourers in Christ's Service**

Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.

Luke 10:2

When the churches become living, working churches, the Holy Spirit will be given in answer to their sincere request. . . . Then the windows of heaven will be open for the showers of the latter rain.—*The Review and Herald*, February 25, 1890.

The great outpouring of the Spirit of God, which lightens the whole earth with His glory, will not come until we have an enlightened people, that know by experience what it means to be labourers together with God. When we have entire, wholehearted consecration to the service of Christ, God will recognize the fact by an outpouring of His Spirit without measure; but this will not be while the largest portion of the church are not labourers together with God.—*Christian Service*, p. 253 (1896).

When the reproach of indolence and slothfulness shall have been wiped away from the church, the Spirit of the Lord will be graciously manifested. Divine power will be revealed. The church will see the providential working of the Lord of hosts.—*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 9, p. 46 (1909).

Daily Scripture**Preparation Day, July 26th, 2024****1st Samuel Chapter 27****David Flees to the Philistines**

- 1Sa 27:1 And David said in his heart, I shall now perish one day by the hand of Saul: *there is* nothing better for me than that I should speedily escape into the land of the Philistines; and Saul shall despair of me, to seek me any more in any coast of Israel: so shall I escape out of his hand.
- 1Sa 27:2 And David arose, and he passed over with the six hundred men that *were* with him unto Achish, the son of Maoch, king of Gath.
- 1Sa 27:3 And David dwelt with Achish at Gath, he and his men, every man with his household, *even* David with his two wives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the Carmelitess, Nabal's wife.
- 1Sa 27:4 And it was told Saul that David was fled to Gath: and he sought no more again for him.
- 1Sa 27:5 And David said unto Achish, If I have now found grace in thine eyes, let them give me a place in some town in the country, that I may dwell there: for why should thy servant dwell in the royal city with thee?
- 1Sa 27:6 Then Achish gave him Ziklag that day: wherefore Ziklag pertains unto the kings of Judah unto this day.
- 1Sa 27:7 And the time that David dwelt in the country of the Philistines was a full year and four months.
- 1Sa 27:8 And David and his men went up, and invaded the Geshurites, and the Gezrites, and the Amalekites: for those *nations were* of old the inhabitants of the land, as thou go to Shur, even unto the land of Egypt.
- 1Sa 27:9 And David smote the land, and left neither man nor woman alive, and took away the sheep, and the oxen, and the asses, and the camels, and the apparel, and returned, and came to Achish.
- 1Sa 27:10 And Achish said, Whither have ye made a road to day? And David said, Against the south of Judah, and against the south of the Jerahmeelites, and against the south of the Kenites.
- 1Sa 27:11 And David saved neither man nor woman alive, to bring *tidings* to Gath, saying, Lest they should tell on us, saying, So did David, and so *will be* his manner all the while he dwells in the country of the Philistines.
- 1Sa 27:12 And Achish believed David, saying, He hath made his people Israel utterly to abhor him; therefore he shall be my servant for ever.

*Adult Mission Story**Preparation Day, July 26th, 2024*

On the first day of school, Teacher Antonia stood before her third-grade class with a cookie box wrapped in festive white, pink, black, and grey wrapping paper.

The children watched curiously as the teacher passed out yellow and green pieces of paper.

“This is a time capsule,” Antonia said, pointing to the box.

Motioning to the papers, she added, “On your paper, write your name and something that you would like to pray about this school term.”

She said the papers would be placed in the box, and the box would be sealed. At the end of the year, the class would throw a party to open the box to see how God had answered their prayers.

The children excitedly wrote down their prayer requests at Ebenezer Seventh-day Adventist Primary School.

Antonia said she also would put a prayer request in the box.

“This is serious for me,” she said. “I believe God can change my life.”

After the time capsule was sealed, a boy’s hand shot up.

“Can we name the time capsule?” he asked, excitedly.

When the teacher nodded her head, he exclaimed, “Jerry, the time capsule!”

All the children burst into applause and cheered.

Then the boy prayed over the box.

“Thank You for Jerry,” he said.

The time capsule was a teaching tool that Antonia had heard about from a teacher from another Adventist school just a few days before the opening of the new school year in Dominica. She liked the idea of incorporating a spiritual lesson into the social activities that usually marked the first day of school at Ebenezer Seventh-day Adventist Primary School.

As the weeks and months passed, children took turns holding Jerry and praying.

“Help us to achieve our goals,” one prayed.

“Make our wishes come true,” prayed another.

When guests like the school principal, pastors, and church leaders visited the classroom, the children asked them to hold the box and pray for their requests.

Halfway through the school year, a little girl waved her hand in the air.

“Miss! Miss! I have something to say,” she said.

She said God had answered her prayer request. She had written on her piece of paper that she wanted to read better, and now she could.

Then a number of little hands shot up. Children spoke about praying for high grades and achieving them.

Two children said they had been able to spend time with their fathers, who lived on other islands.

A girl said she had prayed for a baby brother or sister, and an aunt who had a baby had moved to a house close to her home.

When the children’s praises ended, Antonia bowed her head and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. She quoted from [Mark 9:23](#).

“As Jesus said, ‘All things are possible to him who believes,’” she said.

Part of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help Ebenezer Seventh-day Adventist Primary School expand in a new and larger building. The school, which opened in 1976, consistently ranks in the top 10 list of the 62 elementary schools in Dominica. But the school building is crowded with 160 children from kindergarten to fourth grade. Several blocks away, another 40 fifth and sixth graders study in a makeshift classroom in a separate building. More parents want to send their children to the school, but there simply isn’t room. Thank you for planning a generous offering on September 28.

By Andrew McChesney

LESSON 5

“TEXT”

July 27 — August 2

📖 MEMORY VERSE : ‘Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.’ [1 Peter 1:2]

? STUDY HELP : ✓ Acts of the Apostles, pages 559-561

📖 SCRIPTURE : 1 Peter 1:13-22

🎯 LESSON AIM : To study the relation between sanctification and obedience.

💬 INTRODUCTION : ‘True sanctification means perfect love, perfect obedience, perfect conformity to the will of God. We are to be sanctified to God through obedience to the truth. Our conscience must be purged from dead works to serve the living God. We are not yet perfect; but it is our privilege to cut away from the entanglements of self and sin, and advance to perfection. Great possibilities, high and holy attainments, are placed within the reach of all.’ — *Acts of the Apostles*, page 565.

Sabbath – July 27th

1. How does Peter express the link between obedience and holiness?

➤ 1 Peter 1:14-15 —

NOTE : ‘Here are the conditions upon which every soul will be elected to eternal life. Your obedience to God’s commandments will prove your right to an inheritance with the saints in light. God has elected a certain excellence of character; and everyone who, through the grace of Christ, shall reach the standard of His requirement, will have an abundant entrance into the kingdom of glory. All who would reach this standard of character, will have to employ the means that God has provided to this end. If you would inherit the rest that remains for the children of God, you must become a co-labourer with God. You are elected to wear the yoke of Christ, to bear His burden, to lift his cross. You are to be diligent “to make your calling and election sure.” [2 Peter 1:10.] Search the Scriptures, and you will see that not a son or a daughter of Adam is elected to be saved in disobedience to God’s law. The world makes void the law of God; but Christians are chosen to sanctification through obedience to the truth.’ — *Christian Education*, page 118.

2. Heaven’s Hotline

➤

*E. G. W. Study Help 1**Sabbath, July 27th, 2024***Acts of the Apostles
Chapter 55, pages 559-561****Transformed By Grace**

Such transformation of character as is seen in the life of John is ever the result of communion with Christ. There may be marked defects in the character of an individual, yet when he becomes a true disciple of Christ, the power of divine grace transforms and sanctifies him. Beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, he is changed from glory to glory, until he is like Him whom he adores. {AA 559.1}

John was a teacher of holiness, and in his letters to the church he laid down unerring rules for the conduct of Christians. "Every man that hath this hope in him," he wrote, "purifies himself, even as He is pure." "He that saith he abides in Him ought himself also so to walk, even as He walked." 1 John 3:3; 2:6. He taught that the Christian must be pure in heart and life. Never should he be satisfied with an empty profession. As God is holy in His sphere, so fallen man, through faith in Christ, is to be holy in his sphere. {AA 559.2}

"This is the will of God," the apostle Paul wrote, "even your sanctification." 1 Thessalonians 4:3. The sanctification of the church is God's object in all His dealings with His people. He has chosen them from eternity, that they might be holy. He gave His Son to die for them, that they might be sanctified through obedience to the truth, divested of all the littleness of self. From them He requires a personal work, a personal surrender. God can be honoured by those who profess to believe in Him, only as they are conformed to His image and controlled by His Spirit. Then, as witnesses for the Saviour, they may make known what divine grace has done for them. {AA 559.3}

True sanctification comes through the working out of the principle of love. "God is love; and he that dwells in love dwells in God, and God in him." 1 John 4:16. The life of him in whose heart Christ abides, will reveal practical godliness. The character will be purified, elevated, ennobled, and glorified. Pure doctrine will blend with works of righteousness; heavenly precepts will mingle with holy practices. {AA 560.1}

Those who would gain the blessing of sanctification must first learn the meaning of self-sacrifice. The cross of Christ is the central pillar on which hangs the "far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory." "If any man will come after Me," Christ says, "let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me." 2 Corinthians 4:17; Matthew 16:24. It is the fragrance of our love for our fellow men that reveals our love for God. It is patience in service that brings rest to the soul. It is through humble, diligent, faithful toil that the welfare of Israel is promoted. God upholds and strengthens the one who is willing to follow in Christ's way. {AA 560.2}

Sanctification is not the work of a moment, an hour, a day, but of a lifetime. It is not gained by a happy flight of feeling, but is the result of constantly dying to sin, and constantly living for Christ. Wrongs cannot be righted nor reformations wrought in the character by feeble, intermittent efforts. It is only by long, persevering effort, sore discipline, and stern conflict, that we shall overcome. We know not one day how strong will be our conflict the next. So long as Satan reigns, we shall have self to subdue, besetting sins to overcome; so long as life shall last, there will be no stopping place, no point which we can reach and say, I have fully attained. Sanctification is the result of lifelong obedience. {AA 560.3}

None of the apostles and prophets ever claimed to be without sin. Men who have lived the nearest to God, men who would sacrifice life itself rather than knowingly commit a wrong act, men whom God has honoured with divine light and power, have confessed the sinfulness of their nature. They have put no confidence in the flesh, have claimed no righteousness of their own, but have trusted wholly in the righteousness of Christ. {AA 561.1}

So will it be with all who behold Christ. The nearer we come to Jesus, and the more clearly we discern the purity of His character, the more clearly shall we see the exceeding sinfulness of sin, and the less shall we feel like exalting ourselves. There will be a continual reaching out of the soul after God, a continual, earnest, heartbreaking confession of sin and humbling of the heart before Him. At every advance step in our Christian experience our repentance will deepen. We shall know that our sufficiency is in Christ alone and shall make the apostle's confession our own: "I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwells no good thing." "God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world." Romans 7:18; Galatians 6:14. {AA 561.2}

Let the recording angels write the history of the holy struggles and conflicts of the people of God; let them record their prayers and tears; but let not God be dishonoured by the declaration from human lips, "I am sinless; I am holy." Sanctified lips will never give utterance to such presumptuous words. {AA 561.3}

Last Day Events***Sabbath, July 27th, 2024******Last Day Events, Chapter 7, pp. 219*****"The Shaking"**

"The Latter Rain"**July 27th****"Keep the Vessel Clean and Right Side Up"**

If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.

1 Corinthians 3:17

We need not worry about the latter rain. All we have to do is to keep the vessel clean and right side up and prepared for the reception of the heavenly rain, and keep praying, "Let the latter rain come into my vessel. Let the light of the glorious angel which unites with the third angel shine upon me; give me a part in the work; let me sound the proclamation; let me be a co-labourers with Jesus Christ." Thus seeking God, let me tell you, He is fitting you up all the time, giving you His grace.—*The Upward Look*, p. 283 (1891).

The answer may come with sudden velocity and overpowering might, or it may be delayed for days and weeks, and our faith receive a trial. But God knows how and when to answer our prayer. It is our part of the work to put ourselves in connection with the divine channel. God is responsible for His part of the work. He is faithful who hath promised. The great and important matter with us is to be of one heart and mind, putting aside all envy and malice and, as humble supplicants, to watch and wait. Jesus, our Representative and Head, is ready to do for us what He did for the praying, watching ones on the Day of Pentecost.—*Spirit of Prophecy*, vol.3, p. 272 (1878).

I have no specific time of which to speak when the outpouring of the Holy Spirit will take place--when the mighty angel will come down from heaven and unite with the third angel in closing up the work for this world. My message is that our only safety is in being ready for the heavenly refreshing, having our lamps trimmed and burning.—*Selected Messages, Book 1*, p. 192 (1892).

*Daily Scripture**Sabbath, July 27th, 2024***1st Samuel Chapter 28****Saul and the Medium of Endor**

- 1Sa 28:1 And it came to pass in those days, that the Philistines gathered their armies together for warfare, to fight with Israel. And Achish said unto David, Know thou assuredly, that thou shalt go out with me to battle, thou and thy men.
- 1Sa 28:2 And David said to Achish, Surely thou shalt know what thy servant can do. And Achish said to David, Therefore will I make you keeper of mine head for ever.
- 1Sa 28:3 Now Samuel was dead, and all Israel had lamented him, and buried him in Ramah, even in his own city. And Saul had put away those that had familiar spirits, and the wizards, out of the land.
- 1Sa 28:4 And the Philistines gathered themselves together, and came and pitched in Shunem: and Saul gathered all Israel together, and they pitched in Gilboa.
- 1Sa 28:5 And when Saul saw the host of the Philistines, he was afraid, and his heart greatly trembled.
- 1Sa 28:6 And when Saul enquired of the LORD, the LORD answered him not, neither by dreams, nor by Urim, nor by prophets.
- 1Sa 28:7 Then said Saul unto his servants, Seek me a woman that hath a familiar spirit, that I may go to her, and enquire of her. And his servants said to him, Behold, *there is* a woman that hath a familiar spirit at Endor.
- 1Sa 28:8 And Saul disguised himself, and put on other raiment, and he went, and two men with him, and they came to the woman by night: and he said, I pray thee, divine unto me by the familiar spirit, and bring me *him* up, whom I shall name unto thee.
- 1Sa 28:9 And the woman said unto him, Behold, thou know what Saul hath done, how he hath cut off those that have familiar spirits, and the wizards, out of the land: wherefore then thou lay a snare for my life, to cause me to die?
- 1Sa 28:10 And Saul swore to her by the LORD, saying, *As* the LORD lives, there shall no punishment happen to thee for this thing.
- 1Sa 28:11 Then said the woman, Whom shall I bring up unto thee? And he said, Bring me up Samuel.
- 1Sa 28:12 And when the woman saw Samuel, she cried with a loud voice: and the woman spake to Saul, saying, Why hast thou deceived me? for thou *art* Saul.
- 1Sa 28:13 And the king said unto her, Be not afraid: for what saw thou? And the woman said unto Saul, I saw gods ascending out of the earth.
- 1Sa 28:14 And he said unto her, What form *is* he of? And she said, An old man cometh up; and he *is* covered with a mantle. And Saul perceived that it *was* Samuel, and he stooped with *his* face to the ground, and bowed himself.
- 1Sa 28:15 And Samuel said to Saul, Why hast thou disquieted me, to bring me up? And Saul answered, I am sore distressed; for the Philistines make war against me, and God is departed from me, and answer me no more, neither by prophets, nor by dreams: therefore I have called thee, that thou may make known unto me what I shall do.
- 1Sa 28:16 Then said Samuel, Wherefore then dost thou ask of me, seeing the LORD is departed from thee, and is become thine enemy?
- 1Sa 28:17 And the LORD hath done to him, as he spoke by me: for the LORD hath rent the kingdom out of thine hand, and given it to thy neighbour, *even* to David:
- 1Sa 28:18 Because thou obeyed not the voice of the LORD, nor executed his fierce wrath upon Amalek, therefore hath the LORD done this thing unto thee this day.
- 1Sa 28:19 Moreover the LORD will also deliver Israel with thee into the hand of the Philistines: and tomorrow *shalt* thou and thy sons *be* with me: the LORD also shall deliver the host of Israel into the hand of the Philistines.

- 1Sa 28:20 Then Saul fell straightway all along on the earth, and was sore afraid, because of the words of Samuel: and there was no strength in him; for he had eaten no bread all the day, nor all the night.
- 1Sa 28:21 And the woman came unto Saul, and saw that he was sore troubled, and said unto him, Behold, thine handmaid hath obeyed thy voice, and I have put my life in my hand, and have hearkened unto thy words which thou spoke unto me.
- 1Sa 28:22 Now therefore, I pray thee, hearken thou also unto the voice of thine handmaid, and let me set a morsel of bread before thee; and eat, that thou may have strength, when thou go on thy way.
- 1Sa 28:23 But he refused, and said, I will not eat. But his servants, together with the woman, compelled him; and he hearkened unto their voice. So he arose from the earth, and sat upon the bed.
- 1Sa 28:24 And the woman had a fat calf in the house; and she hasted, and killed it, and took flour, and kneaded *it*, and did bake unleavened bread thereof:
- 1Sa 28:25 And she brought *it* before Saul, and before his servants; and they did eat. Then they rose up, and went away that night.

*Children's Mission Story**Sabbath, April 27th, 2024*

Samuel had a big dream when he was 7. He dreamed of leading many people to the feet of Jesus. He wanted many people to know Jesus and to love Jesus just like him. But he was afraid because he was only a small child.

So, he prayed, “Lord, please help me to win at least one soul for You.”

He prayed, and he prayed. He prayed the same prayer for four years.

Then, when he was 11 years old, he and his family moved to a new city in Colombia. He thought excitedly, “This may be my opportunity to win souls.” He prayed, “Lord, please help me. I want to win my first soul for you.”

At his Seventh-day Adventist school, Samuel quickly noticed that there were many children who did not come from Adventist families. One of those classmates was 14-year-old Johann. Samuel knew for sure that Johann was not from an Adventist home because he used bad words when he spoke to the other boys. Johann also didn’t know the Bible. When the teacher asked questions in Bible class, Johann didn’t seem to know any of the answers.

Samuel thought to himself, “Johann is my opportunity!”

Samuel started to talk to Johann about the Bible whenever they saw each other. He found out that Johann didn’t own a Bible of his own.

One day, during worship time at school, Johann leaned over and asked Samuel, “May I read from your Bible?”

“Of course,” Samuel replied, and handed over his children’s picture Bible.

Johann opened it up and began to read.

“Oh, this is interesting,” he said.

Samuel looked over to see what Johann was reading. He was reading Jesus’ parable about the shepherd looking for the lost sheep in Luke 15.

At the end of the worship service, the children were invited to pray with each other.

Samuel prayed with Johann.

“Lord, please help Johann to become a better boy,” he prayed. “Give him the chance to choose You.”

Johann liked the prayer. “Thank you,” he said when Samuel finished. He didn’t pray.

The next day, Samuel put two Bibles in his backpack when he went to school, one for himself and one for Johann. The second Bible was a black Bible that his father had given him for his ninth birthday.

His chance to give the Bible to Johann came during recess, when Johann asked, “Can I read your Bible again?”

Samuel was so happy!

He said, “Of course! You can read my Bible whenever you want.”

Reaching into his backpack, he took out the two Bibles and gave the black one to Johann.

Then the two boys opened the Bibles and read a story. Afterward, Samuel prayed, thanking God that they could read together and asking for help in understanding what they had read.

After that, Samuel and Johann read the Bible every day at recess.

Before long, Johann also wanted to pray when they finished reading the Bible. His first prayer was simple.

“Lord, I’m here,” he said. “Help me. Thank You for my family. Thank You for giving me the opportunity to study. Help me to study well.”

After reading the Bible together for two weeks, Samuel invited Johann to give his heart to Jesus in baptism. Johann agreed!

Today, Johann is a new boy. Before, he used bad words and didn’t know the Bible. Now, he uses only kind and pure words, and he is getting to know the Bible — and God —very well.

Samuel is happy that he could lead Johann to Jesus’ feet, and he is praying that he will be able to share Jesus with many more people.

He said, “It doesn’t matter your age or the knowledge that you have, you can talk to people about Jesus.”

Part of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help children learn about Jesus in Colombia. Thank you for planning a generous offering on September 28.

By Andrew McChesney

Sunday – July 28th

1. What connection does Peter make between obedience and purifying the soul?

➤ **1 Peter 1:22** —

NOTE : ‘Men need to learn that the blessings of obedience, in their fullness, can be theirs only as they receive the grace of Christ. It is His grace that gives men power to obey the laws of God. It is this that enables him to break the bondage of evil habit. This is the only power that can make him and keep him steadfast in the right path. To the heart that has become purified, all is changed. The Spirit of God produces a new life in the soul, bringing the thoughts and desires into obedience to the will of Christ; and the inward man is renewed in the image of God. Weak and erring men and women show to the world that the redeeming power of grace can cause the faulty character to develop into symmetry and abundant fruitfulness.’ — *God’s Amazing Grace*, page 103.

2. Who is the One who brings us sanctification?

➤ **Romans 15:16, last part.** —

NOTE : ‘The sanctification of the soul by the working of the Holy Spirit is the implanting of Christ’s nature in humanity. Gospel religion is Christ in the life, a living, active principle. It is the grace of Christ revealed in character and wrought out in good works. The principles of the gospel cannot be disconnected from any department of practical life. Every line of Christian experience and labour is to be a representation of the life of Christ.’ — *Christ’s Object Lessons*, page 384.

3. Heaven’s Hotline

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Last Day Events***Sunday, July 28th, 2024******Last Day Events, Chapter 7, pp. 220*****“The Shaking”**

“The Latter Rain”**July 28th****Not All Will Receive the Latter Rain**

Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. For many are called, but few are chosen.

Matthew 22:13-14

I was shown that if God's people make no efforts on their part, but wait for the refreshing to come upon them and remove their wrongs and correct their errors; if they depend upon that to cleanse them from filthiness of the flesh and spirit, and fit them to engage in the loud cry of the third angel, they will be found wanting.—*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, p. 619 (1867).

Are we hoping to see the whole church revived? That time will never come. There are persons in the church who are not converted, and who will not unite in earnest, prevailing prayer. We must enter upon the work individually. We must pray more, and talk less.—*Selected messages, Book 1*, p. 122 (1887).

We may be sure that when the Holy Spirit is poured out, those who did not receive and appreciate the early rain will not see or understand the value of the latter rain.—*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 399 (1896).

Only those who are living up to the light they have will receive greater light. Unless we are daily advancing in the exemplification of the active Christian virtues, we shall not recognize the manifestations of the Holy Spirit in the latter rain. It may be falling on hearts all around us, but we shall not discern or receive it. —*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 507 (1897).

Those who make no decided effort, but simply wait for the Holy Spirit to compel them to action, will perish in darkness. You are not to sit still and do nothing in the work of God.—*Christian Service*, p. 228 (1903).

1st Samuel Chapter 29**The Philistines Reject David**

- 1Sa 29:1 Now the Philistines gathered together all their armies to Aphek: and the Israelites pitched by a fountain which *is* in Jezreel.
- 1Sa 29:2 And the lords of the Philistines passed on by hundreds, and by thousands: but David and his men passed on in the rereward with Achish.
- 1Sa 29:3 Then said the princes of the Philistines, What *do* these Hebrews *here*? And Achish said unto the princes of the Philistines, *Is* not this David, the servant of Saul the king of Israel, which hath been with me these days, or these years, and I have found no fault in him since he fell *unto me* unto this day?
- 1Sa 29:4 And the princes of the Philistines were wroth with him; and the princes of the Philistines said unto him, Make this fellow return, that he may go again to his place which thou hast appointed him, and let him not go down with us to battle, lest in the battle he be an adversary to us: for wherewith should he reconcile himself unto his master? *should it* not *be* with the heads of these men?
- 1Sa 29:5 *Is* not this David, of whom they sang one to another in dances, saying, Saul slew his thousands, and David his ten thousands?
- 1Sa 29:6 Then Achish called David, and said unto him, Surely, *as* the LORD lives, thou hast been upright, and thy going out and thy coming in with me in the host *is* good in my sight: for I have not found evil in thee since the day of thy coming unto me unto this day: nevertheless the lords favour thee not.
- 1Sa 29:7 Wherefore now return, and go in peace, that thou displease not the lords of the Philistines.
- 1Sa 29:8 And David said unto Achish, But what have I done? and what hast thou found in thy servant so long as I have been with thee unto this day, that I may not go fight against the enemies of my lord the king?
- 1Sa 29:9 And Achish answered and said to David, I know that thou *art* good in my sight, as an angel of God: notwithstanding the princes of the Philistines have said, He shall not go up with us to the battle.
- 1Sa 29:10 Wherefore now rise up early in the morning with thy master's servants that are come with thee: and as soon as ye be up early in the morning, and have light, depart.
- 1Sa 29:11 So David and his men rose up early to depart in the morning, to return into the land of the Philistines. And the Philistines went up to Jezreel.

Monday – July 29th

1. Who are the ones to whom the Holy Spirit will be given?

➤ Acts 5:32 —

NOTE : ‘Here is the Divine and the human co-operation. There is the man working in obedience with Divine light given. If Saul had said, “Lord, I am not at all inclined to follow your specified directions to work out my own salvation,” then should the Lord have let ten times the light shine upon Saul, it would have been useless. It is man’s work to co-operate with the Divine. And it is the very hardest, sternest conflict which comes with the purpose and hour of great resolve, and decision of the human to incline the will and way to God’s will and God’s way, relying upon the gracious influences which accompanied him all his life-long. The man must do the work of inclining, “For it is God which works in you both to will and to do.” And the character will determine the nature of the resolve and the action. The doing was not in accordance with the feeling or the inclination, but the known will of our Father which is in heaven. Follow and obey the leadings of the Holy Spirit.’ —*Manuscript Releases, volume 6, page 14.*

2. How did Abraham express his faith?

➤ Hebrews 11:8 —

NOTE: ‘Abraham’s unquestioning obedience is one of the most striking evidences of faith to be found in all the Bible. It was no light test that was thus brought upon Abraham, no small sacrifice that was required of him. There were strong ties to bind him to his country, his kindred, and his home. But he did not hesitate to obey the call. He had no question to ask concerning the land of promise, whether the soil was fertile and the climate healthful; whether the country afforded agreeable surroundings and would afford opportunities for amassing wealth. God had spoken, and His servant must obey; the happiest place on earth for him was the place where God would have him to be.’ — *Conflict & Courage, page 44.*

3. Heaven’s Hotline

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Last Day Events***Monday, July 29th, 2024******Last Day Events, Chapter 7, pp. 221*****“The Shaking”**

“The Latter Rain”**July 29th****God Has Jewels in All Churches**

And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spares his own son that serves him.

Malachi 3:17

God has jewels in all the churches, and it is not for us to make sweeping denunciation of the professed religious world.—*SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 4, p. 1184 (1893).*

The Lord has His representatives in all the churches. These persons have not had the special testing truths for these last days presented to them under circumstances that brought conviction to heart and mind; therefore they have not, by rejecting light, severed their connection with God.—*Testimonies for the Church, vol. 6, p. 70, 71 (1900).*

Among the Catholics there are many who are most conscientious Christians and who walk in all the light that shines upon them, and God will work in their behalf. —*Testimonies for the Church, vol. 9, p. 243 (1909).*

In the eighteenth chapter of the Revelation the people of God are called upon to come out of Babylon. According to this scripture, many of God's people must still be in Babylon. And in what religious bodies are the greater part of the followers of Christ now to be found? Without doubt, in the various churches professing the Protestant faith.—*The Great Controversy, p. 383 (1911).*

Notwithstanding the spiritual darkness and alienation from God that exist in the churches which constitute Babylon, the great body of Christ's true followers are still to be found in their communion.—*The Great Controversy, p. 390 (1911).*

Daily Scripture**Monday, July 29th, 2024****1st Samuel Chapter 30****David's Wives Are Captured**

- 1Sa 30:1 And it came to pass, when David and his men were come to Ziklag on the third day, that the Amalekites had invaded the south, and Ziklag, and smitten Ziklag, and burned it with fire;
- 1Sa 30:2 And had taken the women captives, that *were* therein: they slew not any, either great or small, but carried *them* away, and went on their way.
- 1Sa 30:3 So David and his men came to the city, and, behold, *it was* burned with fire; and their wives, and their sons, and their daughters, were taken captives.
- 1Sa 30:4 Then David and the people that *were* with him lifted up their voice and wept, until they had no more power to weep.
- 1Sa 30:5 And David's two wives were taken captives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the wife of Nabal the Carmelite.
- 1Sa 30:6 And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God.
- 1Sa 30:7 And David said to Abiathar the priest, Ahimelech's son, I pray thee, bring me hither the ephod. And Abiathar brought thither the ephod to David.
- 1Sa 30:8 And David enquired at the LORD, saying, Shall I pursue after this troop? shall I overtake them? And he answered him, Pursue: for thou shalt surely overtake *them*, and without fail recover *all*.
- 1Sa 30:9 So David went, he and the six hundred men that *were* with him, and came to the brook Besor, where those that were left behind stayed.
- 1Sa 30:10 But David pursued, he and four hundred men: for two hundred abode behind, which were so faint that they could not go over the brook Besor.
- 1Sa 30:11 And they found an Egyptian in the field, and brought him to David, and gave him bread, and he did eat; and they made him drink water;
- 1Sa 30:12 And they gave him a piece of a cake of figs, and two clusters of raisins: and when he had eaten, his spirit came again to him: for he had eaten no bread, nor drunk *any* water, three days and three nights.
- 1Sa 30:13 And David said unto him, To whom do thou *belong*? and whence *art* thou? And he said, I *am* a young man of Egypt, servant to an Amalekite; and my master left me, because three days ago I fell sick.
- 1Sa 30:14 We made an invasion *upon* the south of the Cherethites, and upon *the coast* which *belongs* to Judah, and upon the south of Caleb; and we burned Ziklag with fire.
- 1Sa 30:15 And David said to him, Canst thou bring me down to this company? And he said, Swear unto me by God, that thou wilt neither kill me, nor deliver me into the hands of my master, and I will bring thee down to this company.

David Defeats the Amalekites

- 1Sa 30:16 And when he had brought him down, behold, *they were* spread abroad upon all the earth, eating and drinking, and dancing, because of all the great spoil that they had taken out of the land of the Philistines, and out of the land of Judah.
- 1Sa 30:17 And David smote them from the twilight even unto the evening of the next day: and there escaped not a man of them, save four hundred young men, which rode upon camels, and fled.
- 1Sa 30:18 And David recovered all that the Amalekites had carried away: and David rescued his two wives.
- 1Sa 30:19 And there was nothing lacking to them, neither small nor great, neither sons nor daughters, neither spoil, nor any *thing* that they had taken to them: David recovered all.
- 1Sa 30:20 And David took all the flocks and the herds, *which* they drove before those *other* cattle, and said, This *is* David's spoil.

- 1Sa 30:21 And David came to the two hundred men, which were so faint that they could not follow David, whom they had made also to abide at the brook Besor: and they went forth to meet David, and to meet the people that *were* with him: and when David came near to the people, he saluted them.
- 1Sa 30:22 Then answered all the wicked men and *men* of Belial, of those that went with David, and said, Because they went not with us, we will not give them *ought* of the spoil that we have recovered, save to every man his wife and his children, that they may lead *them* away, and depart.
- 1Sa 30:23 Then said David, Ye shall not do so, my brethren, with that which the LORD hath given us, who hath preserved us, and delivered the company that came against us into our hand.
- 1Sa 30:24 For who will hearken unto you in this matter? but as his part *is* that goeth down to the battle, so *shall* his part *be* that carries by the stuff: they shall part alike.
- 1Sa 30:25 And it was *so* from that day forward, that he made it a statute and an ordinance for Israel unto this day.
- 1Sa 30:26 And when David came to Ziklag, he sent of the spoil unto the elders of Judah, *even* to his friends, saying, Behold a present for you of the spoil of the enemies of the LORD;
- 1Sa 30:27 To *them* which *were* in Bethel, and to *them* which *were* in south Ramoth, and to *them* which *were* in Jattir,
- 1Sa 30:28 And to *them* which *were* in Aroer, and to *them* which *were* in Siphmoth, and to *them* which *were* in Eshtemoa,
- 1Sa 30:29 And to *them* which *were* in Rachal, and to *them* which *were* in the cities of the Jerahmeelites, and to *them* which *were* in the cities of the Kenites,
- 1Sa 30:30 And to *them* which *were* in Hormah, and to *them* which *were* in Chorashan, and to *them* which *were* in Athach,
- 1Sa 30:31 And to *them* which *were* in Hebron, and to all the places where David himself and his men were wont to haunt.

Tuesday – July 30th

1. How did Paul express the purpose of his preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ?

➤ **Romans 16:25-26** —

NOTE : ‘Paul had ever exalted the divine law. He had shown that in the law there is no power to save men from the penalty of disobedience. Wrongdoers must repent of their sins and humble themselves before God, whose just wrath they have incurred by breaking His law, and they must also exercise faith in the blood of Christ as their only means of pardon. The Son of God had died as their sacrifice and had ascended to heaven to stand before the Father as their advocate. By repentance and faith they might be freed from the condemnation of sin and through the grace of Christ be enabled henceforth to render obedience to the law of God.’ — *Acts of the Apostles, page 393.*

2. What attitude of mind shows genuine obedience?

➤ **Colossians 3:23** —

NOTE : ‘There are many who, though striving to obey God’s commandments, have little peace or joy. This lack in their experience is the result of a failure to exercise faith. They walk as it were in a salt land, a parched wilderness. They claim little, when they might claim much; for there is no limit to the promises of God. Such ones do not correctly represent the sanctification that comes through obedience to the truth. The Lord would have all His sons and daughters happy, peaceful, and obedient. Through the exercise of faith the believer comes into possession of these blessings. Through faith, every deficiency of character may be supplied, every defilement cleansed, every fault corrected, every excellence developed.’ — *Conflict & Courage, page 359.*

3. Heaven’s Hotline

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Last Day Events***Tuesday, July 30th, 2024******Last Day Events, Chapter 7, pp. 222*****“The Shaking”**

“The Latter Rain”**July 30th****Babylon's Fall Not Yet Complete**

And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.

Revelation 18:2-5

"She made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication" (Revelation 14:6-8). How is this done? By forcing men to accept a spurious sabbath.—*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 9, p. 94 (1904).

Not yet, however, can it be said that . . . "she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication." She has not yet made all nations do this. . . .

Not until this condition shall be reached, and the union of the church with the world shall be fully accomplished throughout Christendom, will the fall of Babylon be complete. The change is a progressive one, and the perfect fulfillment of Revelation 14:8 is yet future.—*The Great Controversy*, p. 389, 390 (1911).

When do her sins reach unto heaven [Revelation 18:2-5]? When the law of God is finally made void by legislation.—*Signs of the Times*, June 12, 1893.

1st Samuel Chapter 31**The Death of Saul**

- 1Sa 31:1 Now the Philistines fought against Israel: and the men of Israel fled from before the Philistines, and fell down slain in mount Gilboa.
- 1Sa 31:2 And the Philistines followed hard upon Saul and upon his sons; and the Philistines slew Jonathan, and Abinadab, and Malchishua, Saul's sons.
- 1Sa 31:3 And the battle went sore against Saul, and the archers hit him; and he was sore wounded of the archers.
- 1Sa 31:4 Then said Saul unto his armour bearer, Draw thy sword, and thrust me through therewith; lest these uncircumcised come and thrust me through, and abuse me. But his armour bearer would not; for he was sore afraid. Therefore Saul took a sword, and fell upon it.
- 1Sa 31:5 And when his armour bearer saw that Saul was dead, he fell likewise upon his sword, and died with him.
- 1Sa 31:6 So Saul died, and his three sons, and his armour bearer, and all his men, that same day together.
- 1Sa 31:7 And when the men of Israel that *were* on the other side of the valley, and *they* that *were* on the other side Jordan, saw that the men of Israel fled, and that Saul and his sons were dead, they forsook the cities, and fled; and the Philistines came and dwelt in them.
- 1Sa 31:8 And it came to pass on the morrow, when the Philistines came to strip the slain, that they found Saul and his three sons fallen in mount Gilboa.
- 1Sa 31:9 And they cut off his head, and stripped off his armour, and sent into the land of the Philistines round about, to publish *it in* the house of their idols, and among the people.
- 1Sa 31:10 And they put his armour in the house of Ashtaroth: and they fastened his body to the wall of Bethshan.
- 1Sa 31:11 And when the inhabitants of Jabeshgilead heard of that which the Philistines had done to Saul;
- 1Sa 31:12 All the valiant men arose, and went all night, and took the body of Saul and the bodies of his sons from the wall of Bethshan, and came to Jabesh, and burnt them there.
- 1Sa 31:13 And they took their bones, and buried *them* under a tree at Jabesh, and fasted seven days.

Wednesday – July 31st

1. What principle is to be the motive in all our obedience?

➤ **Deuteronomy 30:20** —

➤ **1 Peter 1:22** —

NOTE : ‘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*, page 360.

2. Will those who are wholly sanctified still be sinning when Jesus comes?

➤ **1 Thessalonians 5:23** —

NOTE : ‘Sanctification is obtained only in obedience to the will of God. Many who are wilfully trampling upon the law of Jehovah claim holiness of heart and sanctification of life. But they have not a saving knowledge of God or of His law. They are standing in the ranks of the great rebel. He is at war with the law of God, which is the foundation of the divine government in heaven and in the earth. These men are doing the same work as their master has done in seeking to make of none effect God’s holy law. No commandment-breaker can be permitted to enter heaven; for he who was once a pure and exalted covering cherub was thrust out for rebelling against the government of God.’ —*Faith & Works*, page 29.

3. Heaven’s Hotline

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Last Day Events***Wednesday, July 31st, 2024******Last Day Events, Chapter 7, pp. 223*****“The Shaking”**

“The Latter Rain”**July 31st****God's Last Warning Message**

Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:

Colossians 1:28

God has given the messages of Revelation 14 their place in the line of prophecy and their work is not to cease till the close of this earth's history.—*Ellen G White 1888, p. 804 (1890).*

Revelation 18 points to the time when, as the result of rejecting the threefold warning of Revelation 14:6-12, the church will have fully reached the condition foretold by the second angel, and the people of God still in Babylon will be called upon to separate from her communion. This message is the last that will ever be given to the world.—*The Great controversy, p. 390 (1911).*

[Revelation 18:1, 2, 4, quoted.] This scripture points forward to a time when the announcement of the fall of Babylon, as made by the second angel of Revelation 14 (verse 8), is to be repeated, with the additional mention of the corruptions which have been entering the various organizations that constitute Babylon, since that message was first given, in the summer of 1844. . . . These announcements, uniting with the third angel's message, constitute the final warning to be given to the inhabitants of the earth. . . .

The sins of Babylon will be laid open. The fearful results of enforcing the observances of the church by civil authority, the inroads of spiritualism, the stealthy but rapid progress of the papal power--all will be unmasked. By these solemn warnings the people will be stirred. Thousands upon thousands will listen who have never heard words like these. —*The Great controversy, p. 603, 604, 606 (1911).*

Daily Scripture**Wednesday, July 31st, 2024****2nd Samuel Chapter 1****David Hears of Saul's Death**

- 2Sa 1:1 Now it came to pass after the death of Saul, when David was returned from the slaughter of the Amalekites, and David had abode two days in Ziklag;
- 2Sa 1:2 It came even to pass on the third day, that, behold, a man came out of the camp from Saul with his clothes rent, and earth upon his head: and *so* it was, when he came to David, that he fell to the earth, and did obeisance.
- 2Sa 1:3 And David said unto him, From whence come thou? And he said unto him, Out of the camp of Israel am I escaped.
- 2Sa 1:4 And David said unto him, How went the matter? I pray thee, tell me. And he answered, That the people are fled from the battle, and many of the people also are fallen and dead; and Saul and Jonathan his son are dead also.
- 2Sa 1:5 And David said unto the young man that told him, How know thou that Saul and Jonathan his son be dead?
- 2Sa 1:6 And the young man that told him said, As I happened by chance upon mount Gilboa, behold, Saul leaned upon his spear; and, lo, the chariots and horsemen followed hard after him.
- 2Sa 1:7 And when he looked behind him, he saw me, and called unto me. And I answered, Here *am* I.
- 2Sa 1:8 And he said unto me, Who *art* thou? And I answered him, I *am* an Amalekite.
- 2Sa 1:9 He said unto me again, Stand, I pray thee, upon me, and slay me: for anguish is come upon me, because my life *is* yet whole in me.
- 2Sa 1:10 So I stood upon him, and slew him, because I was sure that he could not live after that he was fallen: and I took the crown that *was* upon his head, and the bracelet that *was* on his arm, and have brought them hither unto my lord.
- 2Sa 1:11 Then David took hold on his clothes, and rent them; and likewise all the men that *were* with him:
- 2Sa 1:12 And they mourned, and wept, and fasted until even, for Saul, and for Jonathan his son, and for the people of the LORD, and for the house of Israel; because they were fallen by the sword.
- 2Sa 1:13 And David said unto the young man that told him, Whence *art* thou? And he answered, I *am* the son of a stranger, an Amalekite.
- 2Sa 1:14 And David said unto him, How wast thou not afraid to stretch forth thine hand to destroy the LORD'S anointed?
- 2Sa 1:15 And David called one of the young men, and said, Go near, *and* fall upon him. And he smote him that he died.
- 2Sa 1:16 And David said unto him, Thy blood *be* upon thy head; for thy mouth hath testified against thee, saying, I have slain the LORD'S anointed.

David's Lament for Saul and Jonathan

- 2Sa 1:17 And David lamented with this lamentation over Saul and over Jonathan his son:
- 2Sa 1:18 (Also he bade them teach the children of Judah *the use of* the bow: behold, *it is* written in the book of Jasher.)
- 2Sa 1:19 The beauty of Israel is slain upon thy high places: how are the mighty fallen!
- 2Sa 1:20 Tell *it* not in Gath, publish *it* not in the streets of Askelon; lest the daughters of the Philistines rejoice, lest the daughters of the uncircumcised triumph.
- 2Sa 1:21 Ye mountains of Gilboa, *let there be* no dew, neither *let there be* rain, upon you, nor fields of offerings: for there the shield of the mighty is vilely cast away, the shield of Saul, *as though he had* not *been* anointed with oil.
- 2Sa 1:22 From the blood of the slain, from the fat of the mighty, the bow of Jonathan turned not back, and the sword of Saul returned not empty.

- 2Sa 1:23 Saul and Jonathan *were* lovely and pleasant in their lives, and in their death they were not divided: they were swifter than eagles, they were stronger than lions.
- 2Sa 1:24 Ye daughters of Israel, weep over Saul, who clothed you in scarlet, with *other* delights, who put on ornaments of gold upon your apparel.
- 2Sa 1:25 How are the mighty fallen in the midst of the battle! O Jonathan, *thou wast* slain in thine high places.
- 2Sa 1:26 I am distressed for thee, my brother Jonathan: very pleasant hast thou been unto me: thy love to me was wonderful, passing the love of women.
- 2Sa 1:27 How are the mighty fallen, and the weapons of war perished!

Thursday – August 1st

1. What warning are we given that those not willing to be made holy in this life cannot be made holy when Jesus comes?

➤ **Revelation 22:11-12 —**

NOTE : ‘With many, sanctification is only self-righteousness. And yet these persons boldly claim Jesus as their Saviour and Sanctifier. What a delusion! Will the Son of God sanctify the transgressor of the Father’s law, that law which Christ came to exalt and make honourable? He testifies, “I have kept My Father’s commandments.” God will not bring His law down to meet the imperfect standard of man; and man cannot meet the demands of that holy law without exercising repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.’ *Faith & Works*, page 29.

2. Heaven’s Hotline

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Last Day Events***Thursday, August 1st, 2024******Last Day Events, Chapter 8, pp. 224*****“The Loud Cry”**

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“The Seal of God and the Mark of the Beast”**August 1st****The Heart of God's Last Message****The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.****Mark 1:3**

Several have written to me, inquiring if the message of justification by faith is the third angel's message, and I have answered, "It is the third angel's message in verity."—*Selected Messages, Book 1, p. 372 (1890)*.

The Lord in His great mercy sent a most precious message to His people through Elders [E.J.] Waggoner and [A. T.] Jones. This message was to bring more prominently before the world the uplifted Saviour, the sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. It presented justification through faith in the Surety; it invited the people to receive the righteousness of Christ, which is made manifest in obedience to all the commandments of God.

Many had lost sight of Jesus. They needed to have their eyes directed to His divine person, His merits, and His changeless love for the human family. All power is given into His hands, that He may dispense rich gifts unto men, imparting the priceless gift of His own righteousness to the helpless human agent. This is the message that God commanded to be given to the world. It is the third angel's message, which is to be proclaimed with a loud voice, and attended with the outpouring of His Spirit in a large measure.—*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers, p. 91, 92 (1895)*.

The message of Christ's righteousness is to sound from one end of the earth to the other to prepare the way of the Lord. This is the glory of God, which closes the work of the third angel.--6T 19 (1900). The last message of mercy to be given to the world is a revelation of His character of love. The children of God are to manifest His glory. In their own life and character they are to reveal what the grace of God has done for them.—*Christ's Object Lessons, p. 415, 416 (1900)*.

Daily Scripture**Thursday, August 1st, 2024****2nd Samuel Chapter 2****David Anointed King of Judah**

- 2Sa 2:1 And it came to pass after this, that David enquired of the LORD, saying, Shall I go up into any of the cities of Judah? And the LORD said unto him, Go up. And David said, Whither shall I go up? And he said, Unto Hebron.
- 2Sa 2:2 So David went up thither, and his two wives also, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail Nabal's wife the Carmelite.
- 2Sa 2:3 And his men that *were* with him did David bring up, every man with his household: and they dwelt in the cities of Hebron.
- 2Sa 2:4 And the men of Judah came, and there they anointed David king over the house of Judah. And they told David, saying, *That* the men of Jabeshgilead *were they* that buried Saul.
- 2Sa 2:5 And David sent messengers unto the men of Jabeshgilead, and said unto them, Blessed *be* ye of the LORD, that ye have shewed this kindness unto your lord, *even* unto Saul, and have buried him.
- 2Sa 2:6 And now the LORD shew kindness and truth unto you: and I also will requite you this kindness, because ye have done this thing.
- 2Sa 2:7 Therefore now let your hands be strengthened, and be ye valiant: for your master Saul is dead, and also the house of Judah have anointed me king over them.

Ishbosheth Made King of Israel

- 2Sa 2:8 But Abner the son of Ner, captain of Saul's host, took Ishbosheth the son of Saul, and brought him over to Mahanaim;
- 2Sa 2:9 And made him king over Gilead, and over the Ashurites, and over Jezreel, and over Ephraim, and over Benjamin, and over all Israel.
- 2Sa 2:10 Ishbosheth Saul's son *was* forty years old when he began to reign over Israel, and reigned two years. But the house of Judah followed David.
- 2Sa 2:11 And the time that David was king in Hebron over the house of Judah was seven years and six months.

The Battle of Gibeon

- 2Sa 2:12 And Abner the son of Ner, and the servants of Ishbosheth the son of Saul, went out from Mahanaim to Gibeon.
- 2Sa 2:13 And Joab the son of Zeruiah, and the servants of David, went out, and met together by the pool of Gibeon: and they sat down, the one on the one side of the pool, and the other on the other side of the pool.
- 2Sa 2:14 And Abner said to Joab, Let the young men now arise, and play before us. And Joab said, Let them arise.
- 2Sa 2:15 Then there arose and went over by number twelve of Benjamin, which *pertained* to Ishbosheth the son of Saul, and twelve of the servants of David.
- 2Sa 2:16 And they caught everyone his fellow by the head, and *thrust* his sword in his fellow's side; so they fell down together: wherefore that place was called Helkathhazzurim, which *is* in Gibeon.
- 2Sa 2:17 And there was a very sore battle that day; and Abner was beaten, and the men of Israel, before the servants of David.
- 2Sa 2:18 And there were three sons of Zeruiah there, Joab, and Abishai, and Asahel: and Asahel *was as* light of foot as a wild roe.
- 2Sa 2:19 And Asahel pursued after Abner; and in going he turned not to the right hand nor to the left from following Abner.
- 2Sa 2:20 Then Abner looked behind him, and said, *Art* thou Asahel? And he answered, I *am*.

- 2Sa 2:21 And Abner said to him, Turn thee aside to thy right hand or to thy left, and lay thee hold on one of the young men, and take thee his armour. But Asahel would not turn aside from following of him.
- 2Sa 2:22 And Abner said again to Asahel, Turn thee aside from following me: wherefore should I smite thee to the ground? how then should I hold up my face to Joab thy brother?
- 2Sa 2:23 Howbeit he refused to turn aside: wherefore Abner with the hinder end of the spear smote him under the fifth *rib*, that the spear came out behind him; and he fell down there, and died in the same place: and it came to pass, *that* as many as came to the place where Asahel fell down and died stood still.
- 2Sa 2:24 Joab also and Abishai pursued after Abner: and the sun went down when they were come to the hill of Ammah, that *lies* before Giah by the way of the wilderness of Gibeon.
- 2Sa 2:25 And the children of Benjamin gathered themselves together after Abner, and became one troop, and stood on the top of an hill.
- 2Sa 2:26 Then Abner called to Joab, and said, Shall the sword devour for ever? know thou not that it will be bitterness in the latter end? how long shall it be then, ere thou bid the people return from following their brethren?
- 2Sa 2:27 And Joab said, *As* God lives, unless thou had spoken, surely then in the morning the people had gone up every one from following his brother.
- 2Sa 2:28 So Joab blew a trumpet, and all the people stood still, and pursued after Israel no more, neither fought they any more.
- 2Sa 2:29 And Abner and his men walked all that night through the plain, and passed over Jordan, and went through all Bithron, and they came to Mahanaim.
- 2Sa 2:30 And Joab returned from following Abner: and when he had gathered all the people together, there lacked of David's servants nineteen men and Asahel.
- 2Sa 2:31 But the servants of David had smitten of Benjamin, and of Abner's men, *so that* three hundred and threescore men died.
- 2Sa 2:32 And they took up Asahel, and buried him in the sepulchre of his father, which *was in* Bethlehem. And Joab and his men went all night, and they came to Hebron at break of day.

*Preparation Day – August 2nd***1. Who are the ones who will receive eternal salvation?**

➤ **Hebrews 5:9** —

NOTE : ‘Jesus came to bring moral power to combine with human effort, and in no case are His followers to allow themselves to lose sight of Christ, who is their example in all things. He said, “For their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth” (John 17:19). Jesus presents the truth before His children that they may look upon it, and by beholding it, may become changed, being transformed by His grace from transgression to obedience, from impurity to purity, from sin to heart-holiness and righteousness of life’ — *Selected Messages, book 1, page 262.*

2. Heaven’s Hotline

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Last Day Events***Preparation Day, August 2nd, 2024******Last Day Events, Chapter 8, pp. 225*****“The Loud Cry”****--****“The Seal of God and the Mark of the Beast”****August 2nd****The Message Will Go With Great Power**

And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.

Revelation 18:1

As the third message swells to a loud cry and as great power and glory attend the closing work, the faithful people of God will partake of that glory. It is the latter rain which revives and strengthens them to pass through the time of trouble.—*SDA Bible Commentary*, vol. 7, p. 984 (1862).

As the end approaches, the testimonies of God's servants will become more decided and more powerful.—*Selected Messages, Book 3*, p. 407 (1892).

This message [Revelation 14:9-12] embraces the two preceding messages. It is represented as being given with a loud voice; that is, with the power of the Holy Spirit. —*SDA Bible Commentary*, vol. 7, p. 980 (1900).

As the third angel's message swells into a loud cry, great power and glory will attend its proclamation. The faces of God's people will shine with the light of heaven.—*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 7, p. 17 (1902).

Amidst the deepening shadows of earth's last great crisis, God's light will shine brightest, and the song of hope and trust will be heard in clearest and loftiest strains.—*Education*, p. 166 (1903).

As foretold in the eighteenth of Revelation, the third angel's message is to be proclaimed with great power by those who give the final warning against the beast and his image. —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 8, p. 118 (1904).

Daily Scripture**Preparation Day, August 2nd, 2024****2nd Samuel Chapter 3****Abner Joins David**

- 2Sa 3:1 Now there was long war between the house of Saul and the house of David: but David waxed stronger and stronger, and the house of Saul waxed weaker and weaker.
- 2Sa 3:2 And unto David were sons born in Hebron: and his firstborn was Amnon, of Ahinoam the Jezreelitess;
- 2Sa 3:3 And his second, Chileab, of Abigail the wife of Nabal the Carmelite; and the third, Absalom the son of Maacah the daughter of Talmai king of Geshur;
- 2Sa 3:4 And the fourth, Adonijah the son of Haggith; and the fifth, Shephatiah the son of Abital;
- 2Sa 3:5 And the sixth, Ithream, by Eglah David's wife. These were born to David in Hebron.
- 2Sa 3:6 And it came to pass, while there was war between the house of Saul and the house of David, that Abner made himself strong for the house of Saul.
- 2Sa 3:7 And Saul had a concubine, whose name *was* Rizpah, the daughter of Aiah: and *Ishbosheth* said to Abner, Wherefore hast thou gone in unto my father's concubine?
- 2Sa 3:8 Then was Abner very wroth for the words of Ishbosheth, and said, *Am* I a dog's head, which against Judah do shew kindness this day unto the house of Saul thy father, to his brethren, and to his friends, and have not delivered thee into the hand of David, that thou charge me to day with a fault concerning this woman?
- 2Sa 3:9 So do God to Abner, and more also, except, as the LORD hath sworn to David, even so I do to him;
- 2Sa 3:10 To translate the kingdom from the house of Saul, and to set up the throne of David over Israel and over Judah, from Dan even to Beersheba.
- 2Sa 3:11 And he could not answer Abner a word again, because he feared him.
- 2Sa 3:12 And Abner sent messengers to David on his behalf, saying, Whose *is* the land? saying *also*, Make thy league with me, and, behold, my hand *shall be* with thee, to bring about all Israel unto thee.
- 2Sa 3:13 And he said, Well; I will make a league with thee: but one thing I require of thee, that is, Thou shalt not see my face, except thou first bring Michal Saul's daughter, when thou come to see my face.
- 2Sa 3:14 And David sent messengers to Ishbosheth Saul's son, saying, Deliver *me* my wife Michal, which I espoused to me for an hundred foreskins of the Philistines.
- 2Sa 3:15 And Ishbosheth sent, and took her from *her* husband, *even* from Phaltiel the son of Laish.
- 2Sa 3:16 And her husband went with her along weeping behind her to Bahurim. Then said Abner unto him, Go, return. And he returned.
- 2Sa 3:17 And Abner had communication with the elders of Israel, saying, Ye sought for David in times past *to be* king over you:
- 2Sa 3:18 Now then do *it*: for the LORD hath spoken of David, saying, By the hand of my servant David I will save my people Israel out of the hand of the Philistines, and out of the hand of all their enemies.
- 2Sa 3:19 And Abner also spake in the ears of Benjamin: and Abner went also to speak in the ears of David in Hebron all that seemed good to Israel, and that seemed good to the whole house of Benjamin.
- 2Sa 3:20 So Abner came to David to Hebron, and twenty men with him. And David made Abner and the men that *were* with him a feast.
- 2Sa 3:21 And Abner said unto David, I will arise and go, and will gather all Israel unto my lord the king, that they may make a league with thee, and that thou may reign over all that thine heart desireth. And David sent Abner away; and he went in peace.
- 2Sa 3:22 And, behold, the servants of David and Joab came from *pursuing* a troop, and brought in a great spoil with them: but Abner *was* not with David in Hebron; for he had sent him away, and he was gone in peace.

- 2Sa 3:23 When Joab and all the host that *was* with him were come, they told Joab, saying, Abner the son of Ner came to the king, and he hath sent him away, and he is gone in peace.
- 2Sa 3:24 Then Joab came to the king, and said, What hast thou done? behold, Abner came unto thee; why *is* it *that* thou hast sent him away, and he is quite gone?
- 2Sa 3:25 Thou know Abner the son of Ner, that he came to deceive thee, and to know thy going out and thy coming in, and to know all that thou do.

Joab Murders Abner

- 2Sa 3:26 And when Joab was come out from David, he sent messengers after Abner, which brought him again from the well of Sirah: but David knew *it* not.
- 2Sa 3:27 And when Abner was returned to Hebron, Joab took him aside in the gate to speak with him quietly, and smote him there under the fifth *rib*, that he died, for the blood of Asahel his brother.
- 2Sa 3:28 And afterward when David heard *it*, he said, I and my kingdom *are* guiltless before the LORD for ever from the blood of Abner the son of Ner:
- 2Sa 3:29 Let it rest on the head of Joab, and on all his father's house; and let there not fail from the house of Joab one that hath an issue, or that is a leper, or that leans on a staff, or that falls on the sword, or that lacks bread.
- 2Sa 3:30 So Joab and Abishai his brother slew Abner, because he had slain their brother Asahel at Gibeon in the battle.

David Mourns Abner

- 2Sa 3:31 And David said to Joab, and to all the people that *were* with him, Rend your clothes, and gird you with sackcloth, and mourn before Abner. And king David *himself* followed the bier.
- 2Sa 3:32 And they buried Abner in Hebron: and the king lifted up his voice, and wept at the grave of Abner; and all the people wept.
- 2Sa 3:33 And the king lamented over Abner, and said, Died Abner as a fool dies?
- 2Sa 3:34 Thy hands *were* not bound, nor thy feet put into fetters: as a man falls before wicked men, *so* fell you. And all the people wept again over him.
- 2Sa 3:35 And when all the people came to cause David to eat meat while it was yet day, David sware, saying, So do God to me, and more also, if I taste bread, or ought else, till the sun be down.
- 2Sa 3:36 And all the people took notice *of it*, and it pleased them: as whatsoever the king did pleased all the people.
- 2Sa 3:37 For all the people and all Israel understood that day that it was not of the king to slay Abner the son of Ner.
- 2Sa 3:38 And the king said unto his servants, Know ye not that there is a prince and a great man fallen this day in Israel?
- 2Sa 3:39 And I *am* this day weak, though anointed king; and these men the sons of Zeruiah *be* too hard for me: the LORD shall reward the doer of evil according to his wickedness.

*Adult Mission Story**Preparation Day, August 2nd, 2024*

As Beverly got out of her car at about 11:30 at night, someone pushed her back in. He pushed her across the driver's seat and into the passenger's seat. At the same time, someone got into the back seat and put a gun to Beverly's neck.

"Now we're going for a ride," said the man in the driver's seat.

He backed the car out of Beverly's yard on the Caribbean island of Trinidad, and the trio rode in silence.

Then Beverly spoke up.

"Are you going to kill me?" she said.

"If you don't see us, you won't be killed," the driver said.

Beverly had seen that the driver was wearing a hoodie. She didn't look at him again.

"Do you know how long we have been following you?" the driver asked.

Beverly didn't answer. Two and a half hours had passed since she had left the University of the Southern Caribbean, the Seventh-day Adventist institution where she worked and simultaneously was studying for a master's degree in psychology. She had driven a university friend home, and the two had stopped to eat on the way. After dropping off her friend, she drove to her own house.

"Who was that girl you dropped off?" the driver said.

"A classmate," Beverly said.

“We have been following you for a long time,” the driver said.

The man in the backseat pulled Beverly’s hand behind the seat and tried to twist off her wedding ring.

“Leave it,” the driver said.

The man released Beverly’s hand.

The driver asked Beverly if she had heard about a recent series of murders on the island. He said that a friend had been killed, and he planned to use Beverly’s car to get revenge.

“Can you let me out of the car?” Beverly asked.

“No, you’re going with us,” he said.

But a moment later he seemed to change his mind.

“Do you have someone we could call?” he said.

“My husband.”

“Call him and see if he will pick you up.”

Somehow, the man in the backseat had gotten hold of Beverly’s purse. He opened it, took out Beverly’s cell phone, and handed it to her.

Beverly called her husband, but no one answered.

The man in the backseat snatched back the cell phone and expressed doubt that she had called her husband. “She doesn’t even have this number saved on speed dial,” he said.

The night-time drive continued.

“I’m feeling scared,” Beverly said. “Can I play a CD?”

But when she pressed play, there was no CD in the player. She couldn’t understand why. That morning, she had listened to Christian music as she had driven to the university. She had sung along to the song, “Jesus, take the wheel.”

Now Beverly wondered if the disc might have fallen to the floor. She felt down with a hand and found a disc. “It’s here on the floor,” she said. “Let me put it in.”

A song began to play. It was not the disc that Beverly wanted. She didn’t know where this disc had come from. Someone sang, “Jehovah, I trust in You.”

The man in the back groaned.

The driver was all business. He said, “We’re going to change your license plate, and tomorrow the police will find your car.”

He wanted to let Beverly go. But Beverly didn’t want to be dropped off penniless in the dark. “I don’t have any money,” she said. “How will I get home?”

The driver told his partner to give Beverly some money.

“How much? \$20?” the partner said.

“I have \$1,000 in my purse in the back,” Beverly said.

That day, she had withdrawn her savings from the bank and was taking it home to make a major purchase. She was sure that the man in the backseat had found the money, and she wanted the driver to know about it.

“Give her \$100,” the driver said.

Beverly received the money, the car stopped, and she was ordered out. Then she crossed the road and hailed a taxi, which took her home.

To this day, Beverly does not know why God allowed the terrible ordeal. But as she has looked back on what happened, it seems like God was trying to get her attention, saying, “Trust Me with your life.”

For one thing, the morning before the carjacking, she had sung, “Jesus, take the wheel.” But then she had spent the whole day as she had spent many other days, seeking to control all the details of her life without God’s help.

This also was the third time that she had lost a car. The first time, her car was stolen in front of her house. The second time, her car was destroyed in an accident.

It seemed more than a coincidence that, riding home in the taxi after the carjacking, a song had played on the taxi’s speakers with the words, “How many times must I pass you through the same things to show you how much I love you?”

The police never found Beverly’s car. But she is not complaining. She said the carjacking was a turning point in her life. Now she has decided to trust God in all areas of her life. “Many people whose cars are stolen are killed,” she said. “I don’t know why I’m alive. As Christians, we need to trust God in every circumstance.”

This mission story provides an inside look at life in Trinidad and at the University of the Southern Caribbean, which received part of a 2018 Thirteenth Sabbath Offering to build a university church. The university, where Beverly works today, also received part of a 2021 Thirteenth Sabbath Offering to open a center of influence to train missionaries. Thank you for your Thirteenth Sabbath Offerings that help teach people to trust God in Trinidad and around the world.

By Andrew McChesney

LESSON 6

“BY THE RENEWING OF YOUR MIND”

August 3 — August 9

MEMORY VERSE : ‘And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.’ [Romans 12:2]

STUDY HELP : ✓ My Life Today, page 318

SCRIPTURE : Romans 6:1-18

LESSON AIM : To study the effect of sanctification on the life.

INTRODUCTION : ‘We are in a world that is opposed to righteousness or purity of character, and especially to growth in grace. Wherever we look, we see defilement and corruption, deformity and sin. How opposed is all this to the work that must be accomplished in us just previous to receiving the gift of immortality! God’s elect must stand untainted amid the corruptions teeming around them in these last days. Their bodies must be made holy, their spirits pure. If this work is to be accomplished, it must be undertaken at once, earnestly and understandingly. The Spirit of God should have perfect control, influencing every action.’ —*Maranatha*, page 119.

*Sabbath – August 3rd***1. When Jesus called James and John, what nickname did He give them both?**

➤ **Mark 3:17** —

NOTE : ‘All the disciples had serious faults when Jesus called them to His service. Even John, who came into closest association with the meek and lowly One, was not himself naturally meek and yielding. He and his brother were called “the sons of thunder.” While they were with Jesus, any slight shown to Him aroused their indignation and combativeness. Evil temper, revenge, the spirit of criticism, were all in the beloved disciple. He was proud, and ambitious to be first in the kingdom of God.’ —*Desire of Ages*, page 295.

2. Heaven’s Hotline

➤

E. G. W. Study Help 1*Sabbath, August 3rd, 2024***My Life Today,****Chapter 11, A Victorious Life, p. 318****November 10****The Will is the Deciding Power**

Be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. [Romans 12:2]

There is nothing that can keep you away from God but a rebellious will.

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 unto obedience to God or to disobedience.

You will be in constant peril until you understand the true force of the will. You may believe and promise all things, but your promises and your faith are of no account until you put your will on the right side. If you will fight the fight of faith with your will power, there is no doubt that you will conquer.

Your part is to put your will on the side of Christ. When you yield your will to His, He immediately takes possession of you, and works in you to will and to do of His good pleasure. Your nature is brought under the control of His Spirit. Even your thoughts are subject to Him. If you cannot control your impulses, your emotions, as you may desire, you can control the will, and thus an entire change will be wrought in your life. When you yield up your will to Christ, your life is hid with Christ in God. It is allied to the power which is above all principalities and powers. You have a strength from God that holds you fast to His strength; and a new life, even the life of faith, is possible to you.

You can never be successful in elevating yourself, unless your will is on the side of Christ, cooperating with the Spirit of God. Do not feel that you cannot; but say, "I can, I will." And God has pledged His Holy Spirit to help you in every decided effort.

Last Day Events

Sabbath, August 3rd, 2024

Last Day Events, Chapter 8, pp. 226

“The Loud Cry”

--

“The Seal of God and the Mark of the Beast”

August 3rd

Like the 1844 Movement

And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe.

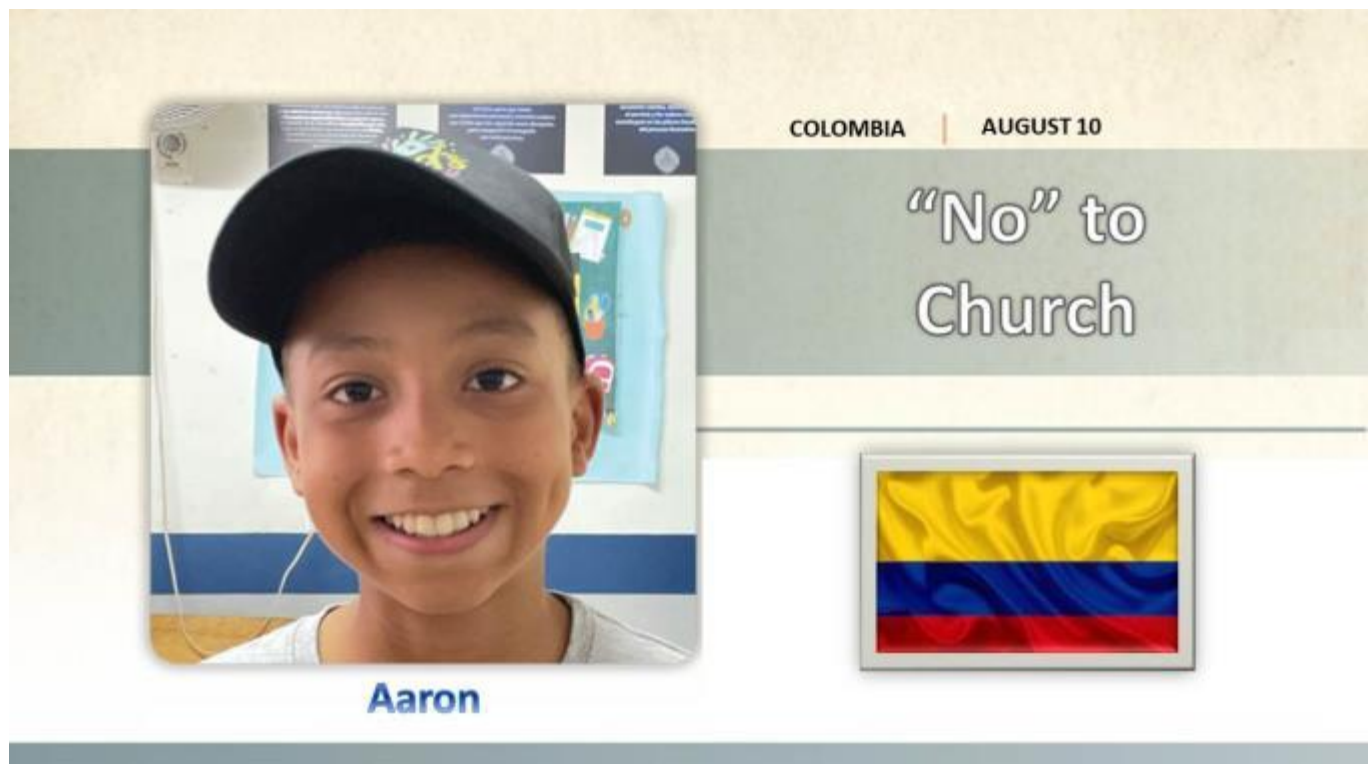
Revelation 14:18

The power which stirred the people so mightily in the 1844 movement will again be revealed. The third angel's message will go forth, not in whispered tones, but with a loud voice.—*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 252 (1885).

I saw that this message will close with power and strength far exceeding the midnight cry.—*Early Writings*, p. 278 (1858).

Daily Scripture**Sabbath, August 3rd, 2024****2nd Samuel Chapter 4****Ishbosheth Murdered**

- 2Sa 4:1 And when Saul's son heard that Abner was dead in Hebron, his hands were feeble, and all the Israelites were troubled.
- 2Sa 4:2 And Saul's son had two men *that were* captains of bands: the name of the one *was* Baanah, and the name of the other Rechab, the sons of Rimmon a Beerothite, of the children of Benjamin: (for Beeroth also was reckoned to Benjamin:
- 2Sa 4:3 And the Beerothites fled to Gittaim, and were sojourners there until this day.)
- 2Sa 4:4 And Jonathan, Saul's son, had a son *that was* lame of *his* feet. He was five years old when the tidings came of Saul and Jonathan out of Jezreel, and his nurse took him up, and fled: and it came to pass, as she made haste to flee, that he fell, and became lame. And his name *was* Mephibosheth.
- 2Sa 4:5 And the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, Rechab and Baanah, went, and came about the heat of the day to the house of Ishbosheth, who lay on a bed at noon.
- 2Sa 4:6 And they came thither into the midst of the house, *as though* they would have fetched wheat; and they smote him under the fifth *rib*: and Rechab and Baanah his brother escaped.
- 2Sa 4:7 For when they came into the house, he lay on his bed in his bedchamber, and they smote him, and slew him, and beheaded him, and took his head, and gat them away through the plain all night.
- 2Sa 4:8 And they brought the head of Ishbosheth unto David to Hebron, and said to the king, Behold the head of Ishbosheth the son of Saul thine enemy, which sought thy life; and the LORD hath avenged my lord the king this day of Saul, and of his seed.
- 2Sa 4:9 And David answered Rechab and Baanah his brother, the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, and said unto them, *As* the LORD lives, who hath redeemed my soul out of all adversity,
- 2Sa 4:10 When one told me, saying, Behold, Saul is dead, thinking to have brought good tidings, I took hold of him, and slew him in Ziklag, who *thought* that I would have given him a reward for his tidings:
- 2Sa 4:11 How much more, when wicked men have slain a righteous person in his own house upon his bed? shall I not therefore now require his blood of your hand, and take you away from the earth?
- 2Sa 4:12 And David commanded his young men, and they slew them, and cut off their hands and their feet, and hanged *them* up over the pool in Hebron. But they took the head of Ishbosheth, and buried *it* in the sepulchre of Abner in Hebron.

*Children's Mission Story**Sabbath, August 3rd, 2024*

One Sabbath, Aaron declared that he didn't want to go to church anymore.

The Covid-19 quarantine had been lifted a few weeks earlier in Colombia. People could finally go to church after being stuck at home for many months. But something was different. There were no children who were Aaron's age at church, and 9-year-old Aaron, who was outgoing, didn't like that at all.

On the third Sabbath, he announced his decision to his mother.

"I don't want to go back to church," he said.

Mother didn't say anything, but she felt very sad.

Later that day, she talked it over with Father.

"We have to do something about this," she said. "If Aaron's friends don't go to church, we have to bring the church to our home."

Father thought it was a good idea. So, he and Mother drew up a plan and presented it to Aaron. "We are going to open our house, and you are going to invite over your friends," Mother said.

Father said they would watch a movie about Jesus.

"We're going to teach them about Jesus," he said. "We're going to do mission."

Aaron smiled. He liked the idea, and he exclaimed, "Yes!"

Aaron liked challenges. Inviting friends home to learn about Jesus definitely was a challenge.

He ran out of the house and almost immediately saw a 9-year-old friend who lived nearby.

“Would you like to come to my house and watch a cartoon about Jesus on Wednesday evening?” he asked.

“Yes!” the boy exclaimed.

Aaron found a second friend and asked the same question. The friend also agreed to come.

But some friends declined his invitation. One said, “I can’t come because I have to play soccer.” A girl said, “I definitely cannot come because I have to go to a party.” A third friend said, “I can’t come because I have to go eat at that time.”

Aaron didn’t mind. He understood that not everyone loves Jesus or wants to know more about Him.

On the first Wednesday evening, 15 boys and girls gathered at Aaron’s home.

First, Aaron asked the children about their week. Then they sang some Christian songs, and Aaron asked if anyone had any prayer requests. After praying, they watched a cartoon about the creation of the earth.

Afterward, Father asked the children what they had learned about God. He said that he had learned that God created all people. “We did not evolve from monkeys,” he said.

As children came to Aaron’s house week after week, Father and Mother realized that they needed to do more than watch Christian cartoons. Several boys and girls spoke very rudely. One boy was always hitting the other children. Watching a cartoon was not enough to teach the children to have good values.

So, Aaron began to invite his friends to another meeting on Sabbath afternoons. Each meeting taught good values through Bible verses and fun activities.

Before long, many, many children were coming to Aaron’s house on Wednesday evenings and Sabbath afternoons. Aaron began to invite them to go with him to church on Sabbath mornings as well.

Six months after Aaron told Mother that he no longer wanted to go to church, he had changed his mind. He was happy to go to church on Sabbath because the church was filled with children who were his own age. He had brought them all there. In fact, he had brought enough friends to church to form their very own Sabbath School class — and 10 of his friends were preparing to give their hearts to Jesus and get baptized.

“I’m happy to go to church because the church has children my age,” Aaron said.

Part of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help children learn about Jesus in Colombia. Thank you for planning a generous offering on September 28.

By Andrew McChesney

*Sunday – August 4th***1. What examples are we shown of the unconverted nature of these two men?**

- **Mark 10:35-37** —
- **Luke 9:49-50** —
- **Luke 9:54** —

NOTE : ‘There were natural evil traits that had to be overcome. At one time he [John] and his brother claimed the right to the highest position in the kingdom of heaven, and at another he forbade a man to cast out devils and heal diseases because he followed not with the disciples. At another time when he saw his Lord slighted by the Samaritans he wanted to call down fire from heaven to consume them. But Christ rebuked him, saying, “The Son of man is not come to destroy men’s lives, but to save them.”’ —*Signs of the Times*, April 20, 1891.

2. What change took place in the life of John?

- **1 John 4:7-11** —

NOTE : ‘John’s love for his Master was not a mere human friendship, but it was the love of a repentant sinner, who felt that he had been redeemed by the precious blood of Christ. He esteemed it the highest honour to work and suffer in the service of his Lord. His love for Jesus led him to love all for whom Christ died. His religion was of a practical character. He reasoned that love to God would be manifested in love to His children. He was heard again and again to say, “Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another” (1 John 4:11). “We love Him, because He first loved us. If a man say, I love God, and hates his brother, he is a liar: for he that loves not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?” (verses 19,20). The apostle’s life was in harmony with his teachings. The love which glowed in his heart for Christ led him to put forth the most earnest, untiring labour for his fellow men, especially for his brethren in the Christian church. He was a powerful preacher, fervent, and deeply in earnest, and his words carried with them a weight of conviction.’ —*The Sanctified Life*, page 53.

3. Heaven’s Hotline

Last Day Events***Sunday, August 4th, 2024******Last Day Events, Chapter 8, pp. 227*****“The Loud Cry”****--****“The Seal of God and the Mark of the Beast”****August 4th****Like the Day of Pentecost****And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?****Acts 2:8**

It is with an earnest longing that I look forward to the time when the events of the Day of Pentecost shall be repeated with even greater power than on that occasion. John says, "I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory" [Revelation 18:1]. Then, as at the Pentecostal season, the people will hear the truth spoken to them, every man in his own tongue.—*SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 6, p. 1055 (1886).*

In visions of the night, representations passed before me of a great reformatory movement among God's people. Many were praising God. The sick were healed, and other miracles were wrought. A spirit of intercession was seen, even as was manifested before the great Day of Pentecost.—*Testimonies for the Church, vol. 9, p. 126 (1909).*

The great work of the gospel is not to close with less manifestation of the power of God than marked its opening. The prophecies which were fulfilled in the outpouring of the former rain at the opening of the gospel, are again to be fulfilled in the latter rain at its close. . . .

Servants of God, with their faces lighted up and shining with holy consecration, will hasten from place to place to proclaim the message from heaven. By thousands of voices, all over the earth, the warning will be given. Miracles will be wrought, the sick will be healed, and signs and wonders will follow the believers.—*The Great Controversy, p. 611, 612 (1911).*

Daily Scripture**Sunday, August 4th, 2024****2nd Samuel Chapter 5****David Anointed King of Israel**

- 2Sa 5:1 Then came all the tribes of Israel to David unto Hebron, and spake, saying, Behold, we *are* thy bone and thy flesh.
- 2Sa 5:2 Also in time past, when Saul was king over us, thou wast he that led out and brought in Israel: and the LORD said to thee, Thou shalt feed my people Israel, and thou shalt be a captain over Israel.
- 2Sa 5:3 So all the elders of Israel came to the king to Hebron; and king David made a league with them in Hebron before the LORD: and they anointed David king over Israel.
- 2Sa 5:4 David *was* thirty years old when he began to reign, *and* he reigned forty years.
- 2Sa 5:5 In Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months: and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty and three years over all Israel and Judah.
- 2Sa 5:6 And the king and his men went to Jerusalem unto the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land: which spake unto David, saying, Except thou take away the blind and the lame, thou shalt not come in hither: thinking, David cannot come in hither.
- 2Sa 5:7 Nevertheless David took the strong hold of Zion: the same *is* the city of David.
- 2Sa 5:8 And David said on that day, Whosoever gets up to the gutter, and smites the Jebusites, and the lame and the blind, *that are* hated of David's soul, *he shall be chief and captain*. Wherefore they said, The blind and the lame shall not come into the house.
- 2Sa 5:9 So David dwelt in the fort, and called it the city of David. And David built round about from Millo and inward.
- 2Sa 5:10 And David went on, and grew great, and the LORD God of hosts *was* with him.
- 2Sa 5:11 And Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David, and cedar trees, and carpenters, and masons: and they built David an house.
- 2Sa 5:12 And David perceived that the LORD had established him king over Israel, and that he had exalted his kingdom for his people Israel's sake.
- 2Sa 5:13 And David took *him* more concubines and wives out of Jerusalem, after he was come from Hebron: and there were yet sons and daughters born to David.
- 2Sa 5:14 And these *be* the names of those that were born unto him in Jerusalem; Shammua, and Shobab, and Nathan, and Solomon,
- 2Sa 5:15 Ibhar also, and Elishua, and Nepheg, and Japhia,
- 2Sa 5:16 And Elishama, and Eliada, and Eliphalet.

David Defeats the Philistines

- 2Sa 5:17 But when the Philistines heard that they had anointed David king over Israel, all the Philistines came up to seek David; and David heard *of it*, and went down to the hold.
- 2Sa 5:18 The Philistines also came and spread themselves in the valley of Rephaim.
- 2Sa 5:19 And David enquired of the LORD, saying, Shall I go up to the Philistines? wilt thou deliver them into mine hand? And the LORD said unto David, Go up: for I will doubtless deliver the Philistines into thine hand.
- 2Sa 5:20 And David came to Baalperazim, and David smote them there, and said, The LORD hath broken forth upon mine enemies before me, as the breach of waters. Therefore he called the name of that place Baalperazim.
- 2Sa 5:21 And there they left their images, and David and his men burned them.
- 2Sa 5:22 And the Philistines came up yet again, and spread themselves in the valley of Rephaim.
- 2Sa 5:23 And when David enquired of the LORD, he said, Thou shalt not go up; *but* fetch a compass behind them, and come upon them over against the mulberry trees.

- 2Sa 5:24 And let it be, when thou hear the sound of a going in the tops of the mulberry trees, that then thou shalt bestir thyself: for then shall the LORD go out before thee, to smite the host of the Philistines.
- 2Sa 5:25 And David did so, as the LORD had commanded him; and smote the Philistines from Geba until thou come to Gazer.

Monday – August 5th

1. How did John speak of himself after his life had been transformed by the power of Christ?

➤ Revelation 1:9 —

NOTE : ‘The depth and fervour of John’s affection for his Master was not the cause of Christ’s love for him, but the effect of that love. John desired to become like Jesus, and under the transforming influence of the love of Christ he did become meek and lowly. Self was hid in Jesus. Above all his companions, John yielded himself to the power of that wondrous life. He says, “The life was manifested, and we have seen it.” “And of His fullness have all we received, and grace for grace.” 1 John 1:2; John 1:16. John knew the Saviour by an experimental knowledge. His Master’s lessons were graven on his soul. When he testified of the Saviour’s grace, his simple language was eloquent with the love that pervaded his whole being.’ — *Acts of the Apostles*, page 544.

‘The Lord desires us to be men and women in Christ Jesus. Our natural dispositions are to be softened and subdued by His grace. Then we shall not be continually crucifying Him afresh. Our Saviour lived on this earth a perfect life. He is our Example. If we now follow Him, doing His will in all things, we shall in the world to come live with Him forever. Let us keep Him constantly in view. It should be our life-purpose to glorify Christ. This is the great purpose that has inspired Christians in every age. It is by cherishing this purpose that we make sure of eternal salvation. Let us learn to know Him whom to know aright is peace and joy and life everlasting.’ — *Signs of the Times*, January 28, 1903.

2. What kind of man was Saul [Paul] before his conversion?

➤ Acts 9:1 —

➤ Acts 8:3 —

➤ Acts 26:11 —

NOTE : ‘Then he was “breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples;” he “made havoc of the church;” he “haled men and women to prison;” he “compelled them to blaspheme;” he was “exceedingly mad” against all who revered the name of Jesus. His heart was filled with bitterness, malice, and hatred; yet he was so deluded as to imagine himself serving God, while in reality doing the work of Satan.’ — *Sketches from the Life of Paul*, page 185.

3. Heaven’s Hotline



Last Day Events***Monday, August 5th, 2024******Last Day Events, Chapter 8, pp. 228*****“The Loud Cry”**

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“The Seal of God and the Mark of the Beast”**August 5th****God Will Employ Agencies That Will Surprise Us**

But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceeds from the Father, he shall testify of me:

John 15:26

Let me tell you that the Lord will work in this last work in a manner very much out of the common order of things, and in a way that will be contrary to any human planning. There will be those among us who will always want to control the work of God, to dictate even what movements shall be made when the work goes forward under the direction of the angel who joins the third angel in the message to be given to the world. God will use ways and means by which it will be seen that He is taking the reins in His own hands. The workers will be surprised by the simple means that He will use to bring about and perfect His work of righteousness.—*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 300 (1885).

Do not imagine that it will be possible to lay out plans for the future. Let God be acknowledged as standing at the helm at all times and under every circumstance. He will work by means that will be suitable, and will maintain, increase, and build up His own people.—*Counsels to Writers and Editors*, p. 71 (1895).

The Comforter is to reveal Himself, not in any specified, precise way that man may mark out, but in the order of God—in unexpected times and ways that will honour His own name.—*EGW 1888*, p. 1478 (1896).

He will raise up from among the common people men and women to do His work, even as of old He called fishermen to be His disciples. There will soon be an awakening that will surprise many. Those who do not realize the necessity of what is to be done will be passed by, and the heavenly messengers will work with those who are called the common people, fitting them to carry the truth to many places. — *Manuscript Releases vol. 15*, p. 312 (1905).

Daily Scripture**Monday, August 5th, 2024****2nd Samuel Chapter 6****The Ark Brought to Jerusalem**

- 2Sa 6:1 Again, David gathered together all *the* chosen *men* of Israel, thirty thousand.
- 2Sa 6:2 And David arose, and went with all the people that *were* with him from Baale of Judah, to bring up from thence the ark of God, whose name is called by the name of the LORD of hosts that dwells *between* the cherubims.
- 2Sa 6:3 And they set the ark of God upon a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab that *was* in Gibeah: and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, drove the new cart.
- 2Sa 6:4 And they brought it out of the house of Abinadab which *was* at Gibeah, accompanying the ark of God: and Ahio went before the ark.

Uzzah and the Ark

- 2Sa 6:5 And David and all the house of Israel played before the LORD on all manner of *instruments made of* fir wood, even on harps, and on psalteries, and on timbrels, and on cornets, and on cymbals.
- 2Sa 6:6 And when they came to Nachon's threshingfloor, Uzzah put forth *his hand* to the ark of God, and took hold of it; for the oxen shook *it*.
- 2Sa 6:7 And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzzah; and God smote him there for *his* error; and there he died by the ark of God.
- 2Sa 6:8 And David was displeased, because the LORD had made a breach upon Uzzah: and he called the name of the place Perezuzzah to this day.
- 2Sa 6:9 And David was afraid of the LORD that day, and said, How shall the ark of the LORD come to me?
- 2Sa 6:10 So David would not remove the ark of the LORD unto him into the city of David: but David carried it aside into the house of Obededom the Gittite.
- 2Sa 6:11 And the ark of the LORD continued in the house of Obededom the Gittite three months: and the LORD blessed Obededom, and all his household.
- 2Sa 6:12 And it was told king David, saying, The LORD hath blessed the house of Obededom, and all that *pertains* unto him, because of the ark of God. So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obededom into the city of David with gladness.
- 2Sa 6:13 And it was *so*, that when they that bare the ark of the LORD had gone six paces, he sacrificed oxen and fatlings.
- 2Sa 6:14 And David danced before the LORD with all *his* might; and David *was* girded with a linen ephod.
- 2Sa 6:15 So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet.

David and Michal

- 2Sa 6:16 And as the ark of the LORD came into the city of David, Michal Saul's daughter looked through a window, and saw king David leaping and dancing before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart.
- 2Sa 6:17 And they brought in the ark of the LORD, and set it in his place, in the midst of the tabernacle that David had pitched for it: and David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD.
- 2Sa 6:18 And as soon as David had made an end of offering burnt offerings and peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD of hosts.
- 2Sa 6:19 And he dealt among all the people, *even* among the whole multitude of Israel, as well to the women as men, to everyone a cake of bread, and a good piece *of flesh*, and a flagon *of wine*. So all the people departed everyone to his house.

- 2Sa 6:20 Then David returned to bless his household. And Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David, and said, How glorious was the king of Israel to day, who uncovered himself to day in the eyes of the handmaids of his servants, as one of the vain fellows shamelessly uncovers himself!
- 2Sa 6:21 And David said unto Michal, *It was* before the LORD, which chose me before thy father, and before all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the LORD, over Israel: therefore will I play before the LORD.
- 2Sa 6:22 And I will yet be more vile than thus, and will be base in mine own sight: and of the maidservants which thou hast spoken of, of them shall I be had in honour.
- 2Sa 6:23 Therefore Michal the daughter of Saul had no child unto the day of her death.

Tuesday – August 6th**1. What event changed Paul's life for ever?**

- Acts 9:3-6 —
- Acts 9:9-11 —

NOTE: 'As Saul yielded himself fully to the convicting power of the Holy Spirit, he saw the mistakes of his life and recognised the far-reaching claims of the law of God. He who had been a proud Pharisee, confident that he was justified by his good works, now bowed before God with the humility and simplicity of a little child, confessing his own unworthiness and pleading the merits of a crucified and risen Saviour. Saul longed to come into full harmony and communion with the Father and the Son; and in the intensity of his desire for pardon and acceptance he offered up fervent supplications to the throne of grace. The prayers of the penitent Pharisee were not in vain. The inmost thoughts and emotions of his heart were transformed by divine grace; and his nobler faculties were brought into harmony with the eternal purposes of God. Christ and His righteousness became to Saul more than the whole world.' — *Acts of the Apostles, pages 119-120.*

2. What transformation took place in Paul's character and life?

- 1 Timothy 1:15 —
- Galatians 6:14 —

NOTE : 'The examples in God's word of genuine repentance and humiliation reveal a spirit of confession in which there is no excuse for sin or attempt at self-justification. Paul did not seek to shield himself; he paints his sin in its darkest hue, not attempting to lessen his guilt. He says, "Many of the saints did I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I gave my voice against them. And I punished them oft in every synagogue, and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly mad against them, I persecuted them even unto strange cities." Acts 26: 10, 11. He does not hesitate to declare that "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief." 1 Timothy 1:15. The humble and broken heart, subdued by genuine repentance, will appreciate something of the love of God and the cost of Calvary; and as a son confesses to a loving father, so will the truly penitent bring all his sins before God. And it is written, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9.' — *Steps to Christ, page 41.*

3. Heaven's Hotline

Last Day Events***Tuesday, August 6th, 2024******Last Day Events, Chapter 8, pp. 229*****“The Loud Cry”**

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“The Seal of God and the Mark of the Beast”**August 6th****Labourers Qualified by the Holy Spirit****Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.****Matthew 9:38**

In the last solemn work few great men will be engaged. . . . God will work a work in our day that but few anticipate. He will raise up and exalt among us those who are taught rather by the unction of His Spirit than by the outward training of scientific institutions. These facilities are not to be despised or condemned; they are ordained of God, but they can furnish only the exterior qualifications. God will manifest that He is not dependent on learned, self-important mortals.—*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 80, 82 (1882).

To souls that are earnestly seeking for light and that accept with gladness every ray of divine illumination from His holy Word, to such alone light will be given. It is through these souls that God will reveal that light and power which will lighten the whole earth with His glory. —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 729 (1889).

It is discipline of spirit, cleanness of heart and thought that is needed. This is of more value than brilliant talent, tact, or knowledge. An ordinary mind, trained to obey a "Thus saith the Lord," is better qualified for God's work than are those who have capabilities but do not employ them rightly.—*The Review and Herald*, Nov. 27, 1900.

The labourers will be qualified rather by the unction of His Spirit than by the training of literary institutions. Men of faith and prayer will be constrained to go forth with holy zeal, declaring the words which God gives them.—*The Great Controversy*, p. 606 (1911).

Daily Scripture**Tuesday, August 6th, 2024****2nd Samuel Chapter 7****The Lord's Covenant with David**

- 2Sa 7:1** And it came to pass, when the king sat in his house, and the LORD had given him rest round about from all his enemies;
- 2Sa 7:2** That the king said unto Nathan the prophet, See now, I dwell in an house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells within curtains.
- 2Sa 7:3** And Nathan said to the king, Go, do all that *is* in thine heart; for the LORD *is* with thee.
- 2Sa 7:4** And it came to pass that night, that the word of the LORD came unto Nathan, saying,
- 2Sa 7:5** Go and tell my servant David, Thus saith the LORD, Shalt thou build me an house for me to dwell in?
- 2Sa 7:6** Whereas I have not dwelt in *any* house since the time that I brought up the children of Israel out of Egypt, even to this day, but have walked in a tent and in a tabernacle.
- 2Sa 7:7** In all *the places* wherein I have walked with all the children of Israel spake I a word with any of the tribes of Israel, whom I commanded to feed my people Israel, saying, Why build ye not me an house of cedar?
- 2Sa 7:8** Now therefore so shalt thou say unto my servant David, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I took thee from the shepcote, from following the sheep, to be ruler over my people, over Israel:
- 2Sa 7:9** And I was with thee whithersoever thou went, and have cut off all thine enemies out of thy sight, and have made thee a great name, like unto the name of the great *men* that *are* in the earth.
- 2Sa 7:10** Moreover I will appoint a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own, and move no more; neither shall the children of wickedness afflict them anymore, as beforetime,
- 2Sa 7:11** And as since the time that I commanded judges *to be* over my people Israel, and have caused thee to rest from all thine enemies. Also the LORD tells thee that he will make thee an house.
- 2Sa 7:12** And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom.
- 2Sa 7:13** He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever.
- 2Sa 7:14** I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men:
- 2Sa 7:15** But my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took *it* from Saul, whom I put away before thee.
- 2Sa 7:16** And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever.
- 2Sa 7:17** According to all these words, and according to all this vision, so did Nathan speak unto David.

David's Prayer of Gratitude

- 2Sa 7:18** Then went king David in, and sat before the LORD, and he said, Who *am* I, O Lord GOD? and what *is* my house, that thou hast brought me hitherto?
- 2Sa 7:19** And this was yet a small thing in thy sight, O Lord GOD; but thou hast spoken also of thy servant's house for a great while to come. And *is* this the manner of man, O Lord GOD?
- 2Sa 7:20** And what can David say more unto thee? for thou, Lord GOD, knows thy servant.
- 2Sa 7:21** For thy word's sake, and according to thine own heart, hast thou done all these great things, to make thy servant know *them*.
- 2Sa 7:22** Wherefore thou art great, O LORD God: for *there is* none like thee, neither *is there any* God beside thee, according to all that we have heard with our ears.
- 2Sa 7:23** And what one nation in the earth *is* like thy people, *even* like Israel, whom God went to redeem for a people to himself, and to make him a name, and to do for you great things and terrible, for thy land, before thy people, which thou redeems to thee from Egypt, *from* the nations and their gods?

- 2Sa 7:24 For thou hast confirmed to thyself thy people Israel *to be* a people unto thee for ever: and thou, LORD, art become their God.
- 2Sa 7:25 And now, O LORD God, the word that thou hast spoken concerning thy servant, and concerning his house, establish *it* for ever, and do as thou hast said.
- 2Sa 7:26 And let thy name be magnified for ever, saying, The LORD of hosts *is* the God over Israel: and let the house of thy servant David be established before thee.
- 2Sa 7:27 For thou, O LORD of hosts, God of Israel, hast revealed to thy servant, saying, I will build thee an house: therefore hath thy servant found in his heart to pray this prayer unto thee.
- 2Sa 7:28 And now, O Lord GOD, thou *art* that God, and thy words be true, and thou hast promised this goodness unto thy servant:
- 2Sa 7:29 Therefore now let it please thee to bless the house of thy servant, that it may continue for ever before thee: for thou, O Lord GOD, hast spoken *it*: and with thy blessing let the house of thy servant be blessed for ever.

Wednesday – August 7th**1. What humble testimony did Paul bear to the change Christ had wrought in his life?****➤ Philippians 3:7-14 —**

NOTE : ‘Paul had a very humble opinion of his own advancement in the Christian life. He says: “Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect.” He speaks of himself as the “chief” of sinners. Yet Paul had been highly honoured of the Lord. He had been taken in holy vision to the third heaven and had there received revelations of divine glory which he could not be permitted to make known.’ — *Testimonies for the Church, volume 5, page 223.*

2. What crime marred the early part of Moses’ life?**➤ Exodus 2:11-14 —**

NOTE : ‘Although he was “learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians,” while in the service of Pharaoh the character of Moses received a mould that disqualified him for the wonderful work he was to do, making him weak where he should have been strong. This weakness was manifested when he visited his brethren, and “spied an Egyptian smiting an Hebrew.” Taking the case in his own hands, he privately “slew the Egyptian, and hid him in the sand.” He would not have done this had he not, during his training in the Egyptian army, received the impression that the Israelites were to be delivered by the sword.’ — *Youth Instructor, January 29, 1903.*

3. Heaven’s Hotline

Last Day Events***Wednesday, August 7th, 2024******Last Day Events, Chapter 8, pp. 230******“The Loud Cry”***

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“The Seal of God and the Mark of the Beast”**August 7th****God Uses Even the Illiterate****For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist.****Luke 21:15**

Those who receive Christ as a personal Saviour will stand the test and trial of these last days. Strengthened by unquestioning faith in Christ, even the illiterate disciple will be able to withstand the doubts and questions that infidelity can produce, and put to blush the sophistries of scorners.

The Lord Jesus will give the disciples a tongue and wisdom that their adversaries can neither gainsay nor resist. Those who could not, by reasoning, overcome satanic delusions will bear an affirmative testimony that will baffle supposedly learned men. Words will come from the lips of the unlearned with such convincing power and wisdom that conversions will be made to the truth. Thousands will be converted under their testimony.

Why should the illiterate man have this power, which the learned man has not? The illiterate one, through faith in Christ, has come into the atmosphere of pure, clear truth, while the learned man has turned away from the truth. The poor man is Christ's witness. He cannot appeal to histories or to so-called high science, but he gathers from the Word of God powerful evidence. The truth that he speaks under the inspiration of the Spirit is so pure and remarkable and carries with it a power so indisputable that his testimony cannot be gainsaid.—*Manuscript Releases, vol. 8, p. 187, 188 (1905).*

*Daily Scripture*Wednesday, August 7th, 2024**2nd Samuel Chapter 8****David's Victories**

- 2Sa 8:1 And after this it came to pass, that David smote the Philistines, and subdued them: and David took Methegammah out of the hand of the Philistines.
- 2Sa 8:2 And he smote Moab, and measured them with a line, casting them down to the ground; even with two lines measured he to put to death, and with one full line to keep alive. And *so* the Moabites became David's servants, *and* brought gifts.
- 2Sa 8:3 David smote also Hadadezer, the son of Rehob, king of Zobah, as he went to recover his border at the river Euphrates.
- 2Sa 8:4 And David took from him a thousand *chariots*, and seven hundred horsemen, and twenty thousand footmen: and David houghed all the chariot *horses*, but reserved of them *for* an hundred chariots.
- 2Sa 8:5 And when the Syrians of Damascus came to succour Hadadezer king of Zobah, David slew of the Syrians two and twenty thousand men.
- 2Sa 8:6 Then David put garrisons in Syria of Damascus: and the Syrians became servants to David, *and* brought gifts. And the LORD preserved David whithersoever he went.
- 2Sa 8:7 And David took the shields of gold that were on the servants of Hadadezer, and brought them to Jerusalem.
- 2Sa 8:8 And from Betah, and from Berothai, cities of Hadadezer, king David took exceeding much brass.
- 2Sa 8:9 When Toi king of Hamath heard that David had smitten all the host of Hadadezer,
- 2Sa 8:10 Then Toi sent Joram his son unto king David, to salute him, and to bless him, because he had fought against Hadadezer, and smitten him: for Hadadezer had wars with Toi. And *Joram* brought with him vessels of silver, and vessels of gold, and vessels of brass:
- 2Sa 8:11 Which also king David did dedicate unto the LORD, with the silver and gold that he had dedicated of all nations which he subdued;
- 2Sa 8:12 Of Syria, and of Moab, and of the children of Ammon, and of the Philistines, and of Amalek, and of the spoil of Hadadezer, son of Rehob, king of Zobah.
- 2Sa 8:13 And David gat *him* a name when he returned from smiting of the Syrians in the valley of salt, *being* eighteen thousand *men*.
- 2Sa 8:14 And he put garrisons in Edom; throughout all Edom put he garrisons, and all they of Edom became David's servants. And the LORD preserved David whithersoever he went.

David's Officials

- 2Sa 8:15 And David reigned over all Israel; and David executed judgment and justice unto all his people.
- 2Sa 8:16 And Joab the son of Zeruiah *was* over the host; and Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud *was* recorder;
- 2Sa 8:17 And Zadok the son of Ahitub, and Ahimelech the son of Abiathar, *were* the priests; and Seraiah *was* the scribe;
- 2Sa 8:18 And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada *was over* both the Cherethites and the Pelethites; and David's sons were chief rulers.

Thursday – August 8th

1. What work did Moses find to do after he had fled from his crime?

➤ **Exodus 3:1** —

NOTE : ‘Moses was not prepared for his great work. He had yet to learn the same lesson of faith that Abraham and Jacob had been taught, not to rely upon human strength or wisdom, but upon the power of God for the fulfilment of His promises. And there were other lessons that, amid the solitude of the mountains, Moses was to receive. In the school of self-denial and hardship he was to learn patience, to temper his passions. Before he could govern wisely, he must be trained to obey. His own heart must be fully in harmony with God before he could teach the knowledge of His will to Israel. By his own experience he must be prepared to exercise a fatherly care over all who needed his help.... Infinite Wisdom called him who was to become the leader of his people to spend forty years in the humble work of a shepherd. The habits of caretaking, of self-forgetfulness and tender solicitude for his flock, thus developed, would prepare him to become the compassionate, longsuffering shepherd of Israel. No advantage that human training or culture could bestow could be a substitute for this experience.’ — *Patriarchs & Prophets, page 247.*

2. Heaven’s Hotline

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Last Day Events

Thursday, August 8th, 2024

Last Day Events, Chapter 8, pp. 231

“The Loud Cry”

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“The Seal of God and the Mark of the Beast”

August 8th

Children Proclaim the Message

So he consented to them in this matter, and proved them ten days.

Daniel 1:14

Many, even among the uneducated, now proclaim the words of the Lord. Children are impelled by the Spirit to go forth and declare the message from heaven. The Spirit is poured out upon all who will yield to its promptings and, casting off all man's machinery, his binding rules and cautious methods, they will declare the truth with the might of the Spirit's power.—*Evangelism*, p. 700 (1895). \

When the heavenly intelligences see that men will no longer present the truth in simplicity as did Jesus, the very children will be moved upon by the Spirit of God and will go forth proclaiming the truth for this time.—*The Southern Work*, p. 66 (1895).

Daily Scripture**Thursday, August 8th, 2024****2nd Samuel Chapter 9****David's Kindness to Mephibosheth**

- 2Sa 9:1 And David said, Is there yet any that is left of the house of Saul, that I may shew him kindness for Jonathan's sake?
- 2Sa 9:2 And *there was* of the house of Saul a servant whose name *was* Ziba. And when they had called him unto David, the king said unto him, *Art* thou Ziba? And he said, Thy servant *is he*.
- 2Sa 9:3 And the king said, *Is* there not yet any of the house of Saul, that I may shew the kindness of God unto him? And Ziba said unto the king, Jonathan hath yet a son, *which is* lame on *his* feet.
- 2Sa 9:4 And the king said unto him, Where *is* he? And Ziba said unto the king, Behold, he *is* in the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, in Lodebar.
- 2Sa 9:5 Then king David sent, and fetched him out of the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, from Lodebar.
- 2Sa 9:6 Now when Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, was come unto David, he fell on his face, and did reverence. And David said, Mephibosheth. And he answered, Behold thy servant!
- 2Sa 9:7 And David said unto him, Fear not: for I will surely shew thee kindness for Jonathan thy father's sake, and will restore thee all the land of Saul thy father; and thou shalt eat bread at my table continually.
- 2Sa 9:8 And he bowed himself, and said, What *is* thy servant, that thou should look upon such a dead dog as I *am*?
- 2Sa 9:9 Then the king called to Ziba, Saul's servant, and said unto him, I have given unto thy master's son all that pertained to Saul and to all his house.
- 2Sa 9:10 Thou therefore, and thy sons, and thy servants, shall till the land for him, and thou shalt bring in *the fruits*, that thy master's son may have food to eat: but Mephibosheth thy master's son shall eat bread always at my table. Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants.
- 2Sa 9:11 Then said Ziba unto the king, According to all that my lord the king hath commanded his servant, so shall thy servant do. As for Mephibosheth, *said the king*, he shall eat at my table, as one of the king's sons.
- 2Sa 9:12 And Mephibosheth had a young son, whose name *was* Micha. And all that dwelt in the house of Ziba *were* servants unto Mephibosheth.
- 2Sa 9:13 So Mephibosheth dwelt in Jerusalem: for he did eat continually at the king's table; and was lame on both his feet.

*Preparation Day – August 9th***1. What transformation from an impulsive and violent man took place in Moses?**

➤ **Numbers 12:3 —**

NOTE: ‘Shut in by the bulwarks of the mountains, Moses was alone with God. The magnificent temples of Egypt no longer impressed his mind with their superstition and falsehood. In the solemn grandeur of the everlasting hills he beheld the majesty of the Most High, and in contrast realised how powerless and insignificant were the gods of Egypt. Everywhere the Creator’s name was written. Moses seemed to stand in His presence and to be overshadowed by His power. Here his pride and self-sufficiency were swept away. In the stern simplicity of his wilderness life, the results of the ease and luxury of Egypt disappeared. Moses became patient, reverent, and humble, “very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth” (Numbers 12:3), yet strong in faith in the mighty God of Jacob.’
Conflict & Courage, page 86.

2. Heaven’s Hotline

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Last Day Events***Preparation Day, August 9th, 2024******Last Day Events, Chapter 8, pp. 232*****“The Loud Cry”****--****“The Seal of God and the Mark of the Beast”****August 9th****The Ministry of Angels**

As it is written in the prophets, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.

Mark 1:2

The angels of heaven are moving upon human minds to arouse investigation in the themes of the Bible. A far greater work will be done than has yet been done and none of the glory of it will flow to men, for angels that minister to those who shall be heirs of salvation are working night and day.—*Counsels to Writers and Editors*, p. 140 (1875).

There are many men in our world who are like Cornelius. . . . As God worked for Cornelius, so He works for these true standard-bearers. . . . They will obtain a knowledge of God as Cornelius did through the visitation of angels from heaven.—*Letter 197*, 1904.

When divine power is combined with human effort, the work will spread like fire in the stubble. God will employ agencies whose origin man will be unable to discern. Angels will do a work which men might have had the blessing of accomplishing had they not neglected to answer the claims of God.—*Selected Messages, Book 1*, p. 118 (1885).

Daily Scripture**Preparation Day, August 9th, 2024****2nd Samuel Chapter 10****David Defeats Ammon and Syria**

- 2Sa 10:1 And it came to pass after this, that the king of the children of Ammon died, and Hanun his son reigned in his stead.
- 2Sa 10:2 Then said David, I will shew kindness unto Hanun the son of Nahash, as his father shewed kindness unto me. And David sent to comfort him by the hand of his servants for his father. And David's servants came into the land of the children of Ammon.
- 2Sa 10:3 And the princes of the children of Ammon said unto Hanun their lord, Think thou that David doth honour thy father, that he hath sent comforters unto thee? hath not David *rather* sent his servants unto thee, to search the city, and to spy it out, and to overthrow it?
- 2Sa 10:4 Wherefore Hanun took David's servants, and shaved off the one half of their beards, and cut off their garments in the middle, *even* to their buttocks, and sent them away.
- 2Sa 10:5 When they told *it* unto David, he sent to meet them, because the men were greatly ashamed: and the king said, Tarry at Jericho until your beards be grown, and *then* return.
- 2Sa 10:6 And when the children of Ammon saw that they stank before David, the children of Ammon sent and hired the Syrians of Bethrehob, and the Syrians of Zoba, twenty thousand footmen, and of king Maacah a thousand men, and of Ishtob twelve thousand men.
- 2Sa 10:7 And when David heard of *it*, he sent Joab, and all the host of the mighty men.
- 2Sa 10:8 And the children of Ammon came out, and put the battle in array at the entering in of the gate: and the Syrians of Zoba, and of Rehob, and Ishtob, and Maacah, *were* by themselves in the field.
- 2Sa 10:9 When Joab saw that the front of the battle was against him before and behind, he chose of all the choice *men* of Israel, and put *them* in array against the Syrians:
- 2Sa 10:10 And the rest of the people he delivered into the hand of Abishai his brother, that he might put *them* in array against the children of Ammon.
- 2Sa 10:11 And he said, If the Syrians be too strong for me, then thou shalt help me: but if the children of Ammon be too strong for thee, then I will come and help thee.
- 2Sa 10:12 Be of good courage, and let us play the men for our people, and for the cities of our God: and the LORD do that which seems him good.
- 2Sa 10:13 And Joab drew nigh, and the people that *were* with him, unto the battle against the Syrians: and they fled before him.
- 2Sa 10:14 And when the children of Ammon saw that the Syrians were fled, then fled they also before Abishai, and entered into the city. So Joab returned from the children of Ammon, and came to Jerusalem.
- 2Sa 10:15 And when the Syrians saw that they were smitten before Israel, they gathered themselves together.
- 2Sa 10:16 And Hadarezer sent, and brought out the Syrians that *were* beyond the river: and they came to Helam; and Shobach the captain of the host of Hadarezer *went* before them.
- 2Sa 10:17 And when it was told David, he gathered all Israel together, and passed over Jordan, and came to Helam. And the Syrians set themselves in array against David, and fought with him.
- 2Sa 10:18 And the Syrians fled before Israel; and David slew *the men of* seven hundred chariots of the Syrians, and forty thousand horsemen, and smote Shobach the captain of their host, who died there.
- 2Sa 10:19 And when all the kings *that were* servants to Hadarezer saw that they were smitten before Israel, they made peace with Israel, and served them. So the Syrians feared to help the children of Ammon any more.

*Adult Mission Story**Preparation Day, August 9th, 2024*

At home alone at night, 11-year-old Faith stopped sewing the button back onto the shirt of her school uniform. She picked up a pair of sharp scissors and slowly cut her arms until blood came out. Her head grew light, and she thought she was going to faint.

Faith's life started going into a downward spiral a few months earlier when Mother underwent an emergency operation. As Mother recovered in the hospital, the girl was left at home alone for six months on the Caribbean island of Trinidad.

Usually, older siblings or neighbours step in to help in such a situation. But Faith didn't have any brothers or sisters. The neighbours didn't know that she was at home alone, and she didn't think to tell them.

Her father, who lived elsewhere and wasn't involved in her life, visited once or twice a week.

"How are you doing?" he asked every time.

"I'm fine," Faith always replied.

Sometimes he gave her money, and then he left. Faith didn't tell him about her life. She didn't think that he would understand.

On her own, Faith learned to cook rice and beans. When they ran out, she lived on bread, butter, and cheese that she bought with Father's money and the meagre funds that Mother had left at home. She taught herself to sew so she could repair her clothes.

During the day, she attended an all-girls' school. She had been the target of bullying before, but the problem grew worse after Mother's hospitalization. The girls taunted Faith about her weight, looks, and intelligence. At

first, Faith responded kindly, hoping that they would become friends. But nothing seemed to change. Her self-esteem evaporated, and she began to hate herself.

Once, she was able to visit Mother when someone gave her a car ride to the hospital, located 30 minutes away. Mother looked so frail, pale, and lifeless. When Faith saw her, she burst into tears. She wanted to tell Mother about the bullying, but she couldn't.

At school, the bullying escalated. One day, a girl said, "You should kill yourself. Then everybody would be happy."

Faith believed it. She thought she deserved to be insulted. She thought that she didn't deserve love, friends, or anything nice. She began to harm herself. She starved herself. She grew long nails and scratched her body until she bled. Then she turned to razor blades, knives, and scissors. She wanted to feel something, anything. Her grades dropped from B's to F's.

Then came the night that she decided to commit suicide with the scissors.

As she grew dizzy, she heard a voice in her head. It was Mother's voice. She hadn't heard the voice in a long time.

"I need you," the voice said. "I need you more than anyone else, even if no one else needs you."

At that moment, Faith decided not to kill herself. She would live for Mother. She forced herself to get up and bandage her arms.

The next day, the teacher noticed the bandages and spoke with Faith privately.

"Are you OK?" she asked.

Faith started to cry and scream. Everything that had built up inside over all those months came out. The teacher began to cry.

"Have you been eating?" she asked.

"No, I've been starving myself."

"Are you sleeping?"

"No, I can't sleep without my mother."

From that day, the teacher took Faith under her wing. Under her watchful eye, the bullying subsided and finally stopped.

Then Mother came home. It was a wonderful day! Faith told Mother everything. As she listened, Mother began to cry. Claspings Faith's hand, she said, "Will you please promise that you will never ever hurt yourself again in any way? Promise that you will not try to take yourself away from me. I need you and love you."

Faith, through tears, said, "I promise."

Due to her poor grades, Faith had to repeat the same grade the next year. She was upset, but Mother said it was for the best. And it was. She left her old classmates behind and was surrounded by new classmates who loved and respected her. She made many good friends.

Mother started going to church, and she invited Faith to join her. Neither had gone to church for years. Faith wasn't interested at first because she thought it would be boring. But she went and enjoyed the singing and the choir. So, she kept going and hasn't stopped. Both she and Mother have given their hearts to Jesus in baptism.

Looking back, she believes God saved her life by sending her the voice of her mother in her hour of need. "I can't explain it," she said. "I was home alone, and I know that I heard my mother's voice from inside my thoughts. I guess she was the person who I needed the most at the time. It must have been the Holy Spirit. He knew what I needed."

To young people who also face bullying, she said, "If I could have a time machine and I could go back to the age of 11 years old, I would tell myself, 'You're going to be OK. Everything is going to be just fine. You're going to meet a lot of really nice people who are going to love you and appreciate you just as you are. All you have to do is put God first and you will be OK.'"

This mission story provides an inside look at life in Trinidad and the missional challenges there. Part of a 2018 Thirteenth Sabbath Offering went to build a church at the University of the Southern Caribbean, which is located near Faith's home. Adventist Mission met with Faith to hear her story at the university. Thank you for your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter that will help bring hope to young people in the Inter-American Division.

By Andrew McChesney

LESSON 7

“YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN”

August 10 — August 16

MEMORY VERSE : ‘Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.’ [John 3:3]

STUDY HELP : ✓ The Faith I Live By, page 19.

SCRIPTURE : John 3:3-10

LESSON AIM : To study what Jesus meant when He spoke of being ‘born again’.

INTRODUCTION : ‘By nature the heart is evil. The fountain of the heart must be purified before the streams can become pure. He who is trying to reach heaven by his own works in keeping the law is attempting an impossibility. There is no safety for one who has merely a legal religion, a form of godliness. The Christian’s life is not a modification or improvement of the old, but a transformation of nature. There is a death to self and sin, and a new life altogether. This change can be brought about only by the effectual working of the Holy Spirit. It can no more be explained than can the movements of the wind.’ — *God’s Amazing Grace*, page 22

*Sabbath – August 10th***1. What crucial truth did Jesus reveal to Nicodemus?**

➤ **John 3:3 —**

NOTE : ‘You must lay your preconceived opinions, your hereditary and cultivated ideas, at the door of investigation. If you search the Scriptures to vindicate your own opinions, you will never reach the truth. Search in order to learn what the Lord says. If conviction comes as you search, if you see that your cherished opinions are not in harmony with the truth, do not misinterpret the truth in order to suit your own belief, but accept the light given. Open mind and heart that you may behold wondrous things out of God’s word. Faith in Christ as the world’s Redeemer calls for an acknowledgment of the enlightened intellect controlled by a heart that can discern and appreciate the heavenly treasure. This faith is inseparable from repentance and transformation of character. To have faith means to find and accept the gospel treasure, with all the obligations which it imposes. “Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” John 3:3. He may conjecture and imagine, but without the eye of faith he cannot see the treasure. Christ gave His life to secure for us this inestimable treasure; but without regeneration through faith in His blood, there is no remission of sins, no treasure for any perishing soul.’ — *Christ’s Object Lessons*, page 112.

2. Heaven’s Hotline

E. G. W. Study Help 1*Sabbath, August 10th, 2024***The Faith I Live By
Chapter 1, p. 19****January 12****The Secret of Power****Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.****Psalm 119:9**

It is one thing to treat the Bible as a book of good moral instruction, to be heeded so far as is consistent with the spirit of the times and our position in the world; it is another thing to regard it as it really is—the Word of the living God, the Word that is our life, the Word that is to mould our actions, our words, and our thoughts. To hold God's Word anything less than this is to reject it.

The Word of God is a character-detector, a motive-tester. We are to read this Word with heart and mind open to receive the impressions that God will give. We must not think that the reading of the Word can accomplish that which only He whom the Word reveals, who stands behind the Word, can accomplish. Some are in danger of hastening to the conclusion that because they hold firmly to the doctrines of the truth, they are actually in possession of the blessings which these doctrines declare shall come to the receiver of truth. Many keep the truth in the outer court. Its sacred principles have not a controlling influence over the words, the thoughts, the actions.

In this perilous day of evil, when allurements to vice and corruption are on every hand, let the earnest, heartfelt cry of the young be raised to heaven: "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way?" And may his ears be open and his heart inclined to obey the instruction given in the answer: "By taking heed thereto according to thy word." The only safety for the youth in this age of pollution is to make God their trust. Without divine help they will be unable to control human passions and appetites. In Christ is the very help needed.

Truth must reach down to the deepest recesses of the soul, and cleanse away everything unlike the spirit of Christ, and the vacuum be supplied by the attributes of His character who was pure and holy and undefiled, that all the springs of the heart may be as flowers, fragrant with perfume, a sweet smelling savour, a savour of life unto life.

Last Day Events***Sabbath, August 10th, 2024******Last Day Events, Chapter 8, pp. 233*****“The Loud Cry”****--****“The Seal of God and the Mark of the Beast”****August 10th****World-wide Extent of the Proclamation**

And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

Matthew 24:14

The angel who unites in the proclamation of the third angel's message is to lighten the whole earth with his glory. A work of world-wide extent and unwonted power is here foretold. . . . Servants of God, with their faces lighted up and shining with holy consecration, will hasten from place to place to proclaim the message from heaven. By thousands of voices, all over the earth, the warning will be given.—*The Great Controversy*, p. 611, 612 (1911).

The message of the angel following the third is now to be given to all parts of the world. It is to be the harvest message, and the whole earth will be lighted with the glory of God.—*Letter 86*, 1900.

When the storm of persecution really breaks upon us, . . . then will the message of the third angel swell to a loud cry, and the whole earth will be lightened with the glory of the Lord.—*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 401 (1900).

In every city in America the truth is to be proclaimed. In every country of the world the warning message is to be given.—*General Conference Bulletin*, March 30, 1903.

During the loud cry the church, aided by the providential interpositions of her exalted Lord, will diffuse the knowledge of salvation so abundantly that light will be communicated to every city and town.—*Evangelism*, p. 694 (1904).

A crisis is right upon us. We must now by the Holy Spirit's power proclaim the great truths for these last days. It will not be long before everyone will have heard the warning and made his decision. Then shall the end come.—*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 24 (1900).

*Daily Scripture**Sabbath, August 10th, 2024***2nd Samuel Chapter 11****David and Bathsheba**

- 2Sa 11:1 And it came to pass, after the year was expired, at the time when kings go forth *to battle*, that David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the children of Ammon, and besieged Rabbah. But David tarried still at Jerusalem.
- 2Sa 11:2 And it came to pass in an eveningtide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king's house: and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman *was* very beautiful to look upon.
- 2Sa 11:3 And David sent and enquired after the woman. And *one* said, *Is* not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?
- 2Sa 11:4 And David sent messengers, and took her; and she came in unto him, and he lay with her; for she was purified from her uncleanness: and she returned unto her house.
- 2Sa 11:5 And the woman conceived, and sent and told David, and said, I *am* with child.
- 2Sa 11:6 And David sent to Joab, *saying*, Send me Uriah the Hittite. And Joab sent Uriah to David.
- 2Sa 11:7 And when Uriah was come unto him, David demanded *of him* how Joab did, and how the people did, and how the war prospered.
- 2Sa 11:8 And David said to Uriah, Go down to thy house, and wash thy feet. And Uriah departed out of the king's house, and there followed him a mess *of meat* from the king.
- 2Sa 11:9 But Uriah slept at the door of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and went not down to his house.
- 2Sa 11:10 And when they had told David, saying, Uriah went not down unto his house, David said unto Uriah, Came thou not from *thy* journey? why *then* didst thou not go down unto thine house?
- 2Sa 11:11 And Uriah said unto David, The ark, and Israel, and Judah, abide in tents; and my lord Joab, and the servants of my lord, are encamped in the open fields; shall I then go into mine house, to eat and to drink, and to lie with my wife? *as* thou lives, and *as* thy soul lives, I will not do this thing.
- 2Sa 11:12 And David said to Uriah, Tarry here today also, and tomorrow I will let thee depart. So Uriah abode in Jerusalem that day, and the morrow.
- 2Sa 11:13 And when David had called him, he did eat and drink before him; and he made him drunk: and at even he went out to lie on his bed with the servants of his lord, but went not down to his house.
- 2Sa 11:14 And it came to pass in the morning, that David wrote a letter to Joab, and sent *it* by the hand of Uriah.
- 2Sa 11:15 And he wrote in the letter, saying, Set ye Uriah in the forefront of the hottest battle, and retire ye from him, that he may be smitten, and die.
- 2Sa 11:16 And it came to pass, when Joab observed the city, that he assigned Uriah unto a place where he knew that valiant men *were*.
- 2Sa 11:17 And the men of the city went out, and fought with Joab: and there fell *some* of the people of the servants of David; and Uriah the Hittite died also.
- 2Sa 11:18 Then Joab sent and told David all the things concerning the war;
- 2Sa 11:19 And charged the messenger, saying, When thou hast made an end of telling the matters of the war unto the king,
- 2Sa 11:20 And if so be that the king's wrath arise, and he say unto thee, Wherefore approached ye so nigh unto the city when ye did fight? knew ye not that they would shoot from the wall?
- 2Sa 11:21 Who smote Abimelech the son of Jerubbesheth? did not a woman cast a piece of a millstone upon him from the wall, that he died in Thebez? why went ye nigh the wall? then say thou, Thy servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also.
- 2Sa 11:22 So the messenger went, and came and shewed David all that Joab had sent him for.

- 2Sa 11:23 And the messenger said unto David, Surely the men prevailed against us, and came out unto us into the field, and we were upon them even unto the entering of the gate.
- 2Sa 11:24 And the shooters shot from off the wall upon thy servants; and *some* of the king's servants be dead, and thy servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also.
- 2Sa 11:25 Then David said unto the messenger, Thus shalt thou say unto Joab, Let not this thing displease thee, for the sword devours one as well as another: make thy battle more strong against the city, and overthrow it: and encourage thou him.
- 2Sa 11:26 And when the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she mourned for her husband.
- 2Sa 11:27 And when the mourning was past, David sent and fetched her to his house, and she became his wife, and bare him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD.

*Children's Mission Story**Sabbath, August 10th, 2024*

Moises was only 8 years old when his family moved from Venezuela to Colombia in South America.

He noticed right away that many boys acted rowdy and spoke roughly in his new school.

He thought, "If they knew and loved Jesus, they wouldn't act and speak like that."

He wondered how he could introduce them to Jesus.

Then he had an idea.

At recess, he invited some of the children to read the Bible with him on the playground. Three children agreed, and they gathered around him as he opened his Bible to Daniel.

After three weeks, 10 children were gathering around Moises during recess to hear him read the Bible. The teachers were amazed to see the children earnestly talking about Daniel and Revelation. One of them called Moises' father to express her surprise. Moises' father was not surprised. At home, Moises had been asking him how to teach Daniel and Revelation to the children, and he was proud of his son.

After two months, the Bible group grew so big that they began to meet during lunchtime on the playground. The children ate as they discussed the Bible.

Moises decided at that point that the group was so big that it needed a name. He thought and thought about it. He prayed and prayed about it. Then he settled on the name Ebenezer. The word "Ebenezer" is composed of two Hebrew words: "eben," which means "stone," and "ezer," which means "help." Moises wanted the children to remember that God was their "Stone of Help."

Months passed, and Moises' classmates were as rowdy as before.

Moises was so disappointed. He wondered if there might be a better way to teach his classmates about Jesus. He thought and thought about it. He prayed and prayed about it.

Then he noticed something. All the children seemed to like music. He could understand why. He also liked music. In fact, he could play the keyboard, guitar, violin, flute, and the ukulele. But many of his classmates couldn't play any musical instruments.

Moises decided to open a music club. He would teach his classmates how to play music that praised God.

Six children eagerly joined the music club when it opened. Moises provided musical instruments so children could practice at school. He even allowed his classmates to take his violin and flute to practice at home.

The club grew and grew as Moises taught the children how to play beautiful hymns of praise.

The club became known for playing wonderful music. Before long, the young musicians were playing at worship services and other school events. At the end of the year, they played at the graduation ceremony.

Year after year passed. Moises led the music club until he finished the ninth grade. The school didn't have 10th grade, so he had to move to another school to finish high school.

But the music club continued to meet. After Moises left, the school decided to make music an official subject, and it asked Moises to be the first teacher of its weekly music class.

So, Moises may be only 14 years old today, but he is already the music teacher of 25 students.

Every Thursday, he leaves high school early to teach the music class at his old school.

He doesn't receive any money for his work. He teaches music out of the kindness of his heart. He teaches music because he wants children to know Jesus.

His work is showing results. One boy who used to act rowdy and speak roughly has given his heart to Jesus and been baptized. He is a new boy.

Moises hopes many other children also will get to know Jesus.

"I started the music group to bring children to Jesus," he said.

Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help children learn about Jesus in Colombia. Thank you for planning a generous offering on September 28.

By Andrew McChesney

*Sunday – August 11th***1. How did Jesus repeat this important warning?**

➤ **John 3:5** —

NOTE : ‘You may say, “I was born with a natural tendency toward this evil, and I cannot overcome.” But every provision has been made by our heavenly Father whereby you may be able to overcome every unholy tendency. You are to overcome even as Christ overcame in your behalf. He says, “To him that overcomes will I grant to sit with Me in My throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with My Father in His throne.” It was sin that imperilled the human family; and before man was created, the provision was made that if man failed to bear the test, Jesus would become his sacrifice and surety, that through faith in Him, man might be reconciled to God, for Christ was the lamb “slain from the foundation of the world.” Christ died on Calvary that man might have power to overcome his natural tendencies to sin. But one says, “Can I not have my own way, and act myself? No, you cannot have your way, and enter the kingdom of heaven. No “my way” will be there. No human ways will find place in the kingdom of heaven. Our ways must be lost in God’s ways.’ —*Review & Herald, February 23, 1892.*

2. What is involved in the new birth?

➤ **Psalms 51:10** —

NOTE : ‘God’s forgiveness is not merely a judicial act by which He sets us free from condemnation. It is not only forgiveness for sin but reclaiming from sin. It is the outflow of redeeming love that transforms the heart. David had the true conception of forgiveness when he prayed, “Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.” Psalm 51:10.’ —*The Faith I Live By, page 129.*

3. Heaven’s Hotline

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Last Day Events

Sunday, August 11th, 2024

Last Day Events, Chapter 8, pp. 234

“The Loud Cry”

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“The Seal of God and the Mark of the Beast”

August 11th

Kings, Legislators, Councils, Hear the Message

But before all these, they shall lay their hands on you, and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues, and into prisons, being brought before kings and rulers for my name's sake.

Luke 21:12

It does not seem possible to us now that any should have to stand alone, but if God has ever spoken by me, the time will come when we shall be brought before councils and before thousands for His name's sake, and each one will have to give the reason of his faith. Then will come the severest criticism upon every position that has been taken for the truth. We need, then, to study the Word of God, that we may know why we believe the doctrines we advocate.—*The Review and Herald, Dec. 18, 1888.*

Many will have to stand in the legislative courts; some will have to stand before kings and before the learned of the earth to answer for their faith. Those who have only a superficial understanding of truth will not be able clearly to expound the Scriptures and give definite reasons for their faith. They will become confused and will not be workmen that need not to be ashamed. Let no one imagine that he has no need to study because he is not to preach in the sacred desk. You know not what God may require of you.—*Fundamentals of Christian Education, p. 217 (1893).*

Daily Scripture**Sunday, August 11th, 2024****2nd Samuel Chapter 12****Nathan Rebukes David**

- 2Sa 12:1 And the LORD sent Nathan unto David. And he came unto him, and said unto him, There were two men in one city; the one rich, and the other poor.
- 2Sa 12:2 The rich *man* had exceeding many flocks and herds:
- 2Sa 12:3 But the poor *man* had nothing, save one little ewe lamb, which he had bought and nourished up: and it grew up together with him, and with his children; it did eat of his own meat, and drank of his own cup, and lay in his bosom, and was unto him as a daughter.
- 2Sa 12:4 And there came a traveller unto the rich man, and he spared to take of his own flock and of his own herd, to dress for the wayfaring man that was come unto him; but took the poor man's lamb, and dressed it for the man that was come to him.
- 2Sa 12:5 And David's anger was greatly kindled against the man; and he said to Nathan, *As* the LORD lives, the man that hath done this *thing* shall surely die:
- 2Sa 12:6 And he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity.
- 2Sa 12:7 And Nathan said to David, Thou *art* the man. Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I anointed thee king over Israel, and I delivered thee out of the hand of Saul;
- 2Sa 12:8 And I gave thee thy master's house, and thy master's wives into thy bosom, and gave thee the house of Israel and of Judah; and if *that had been* too little, I would moreover have given unto thee such and such things.
- 2Sa 12:9 Wherefore hast thou despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in his sight? thou hast killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and hast taken his wife *to be* thy wife, and hast slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon.
- 2Sa 12:10 Now therefore the sword shall never depart from thine house; because thou hast despised me, and hast taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be thy wife.
- 2Sa 12:11 Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house, and I will take thy wives before thine eyes, and give *them* unto thy neighbour, and he shall lie with thy wives in the sight of this sun.
- 2Sa 12:12 For thou didst *it* secretly: but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun.
- 2Sa 12:13 And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD. And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die.
- 2Sa 12:14 Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also *that is* born unto thee shall surely die.

David's Child Dies

- 2Sa 12:15 And Nathan departed unto his house. And the LORD struck the child that Uriah's wife bare unto David, and it was very sick.
- 2Sa 12:16 David therefore besought God for the child; and David fasted, and went in, and lay all night upon the earth.
- 2Sa 12:17 And the elders of his house arose, *and went* to him, to raise him up from the earth: but he would not, neither did he eat bread with them.
- 2Sa 12:18 And it came to pass on the seventh day, that the child died. And the servants of David feared to tell him that the child was dead: for they said, Behold, while the child was yet alive, we spake unto him, and he would not hearken unto our voice: how will he then vex himself, if we tell him that the child is dead?
- 2Sa 12:19 But when David saw that his servants whispered, David perceived that the child was dead: therefore David said unto his servants, Is the child dead? And they said, He is dead.

- 2Sa 12:20 Then David arose from the earth, and washed, and anointed *himself*, and changed his apparel, and came into the house of the LORD, and worshipped: then he came to his own house; and when he required, they set bread before him, and he did eat.
- 2Sa 12:21 Then said his servants unto him, What thing *is* this that thou hast done? thou didst fast and weep for the child, *while it was* alive; but when the child was dead, thou didst rise and eat bread.
- 2Sa 12:22 And he said, While the child was yet alive, I fasted and wept: for I said, Who can tell *whether* GOD will be gracious to me, that the child may live?
- 2Sa 12:23 But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.

Solomon's Birth

- 2Sa 12:24 And David comforted Bathsheba his wife, and went in unto her, and lay with her: and she bare a son, and he called his name Solomon: and the LORD loved him.
- 2Sa 12:25 And he sent by the hand of Nathan the prophet; and he called his name Jedidiah, because of the LORD.

Rabbah Is Captured

- 2Sa 12:26 And Joab fought against Rabbah of the children of Ammon, and took the royal city.
- 2Sa 12:27 And Joab sent messengers to David, and said, I have fought against Rabbah, and have taken the city of waters.
- 2Sa 12:28 Now therefore gather the rest of the people together, and encamp against the city, and take it: lest I take the city, and it be called after my name.
- 2Sa 12:29 And David gathered all the people together, and went to Rabbah, and fought against it, and took it.
- 2Sa 12:30 And he took their king's crown from off his head, the weight whereof *was* a talent of gold with the precious stones: and it was *set* on David's head. And he brought forth the spoil of the city in great abundance.
- 2Sa 12:31 And he brought forth the people that *were* therein, and put *them* under saws, and under harrows of iron, and under axes of iron, and made them pass through the brick-kiln: and thus did he unto all the cities of the children of Ammon. So David and all the people returned unto Jerusalem.

Monday – August 12th

1. How are we shown that this new birth experience is essential for eternal life?

➤ **Psalm 24:3-5** —

NOTE : ‘The refining influence of the grace of God changes the natural disposition of man. Heaven would not be desirable to the carnal-minded; their natural, unsanctified hearts would feel no attraction toward that pure and holy place, and if it were possible for them to enter, they would find there nothing congenial. The propensities that control the natural heart must be subdued by the grace of Christ before fallen man is fitted to enter heaven and enjoy the society of the pure, holy angels. When man dies to sin and is quickened to new life in Christ, divine love fills his heart; his understanding is sanctified; he drinks from an inexhaustible fountain of joy and knowledge, and the light of an eternal day shines upon his path, for with him continually is the Light of life.’ *Acts of the Apostles, page 273.*

2. Who is the One who makes the new birth possible?

➤ **Ezekiel 36:26** —

NOTE : “‘It is God which works in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure.’” (Philippians 2:13). Man cannot transform himself by the exercise of his will. He possesses no power by which this change may be affected. The renewing energy must come from God. The change can be made only by the Holy Spirit. He who would be saved, high or low, rich or poor, must submit to the working of this power.’ *In Heavenly Places, page 20.*

3. Heaven’s Hotline

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Last Day Events

Monday, August 12th, 2024

Last Day Events, Chapter 8, pp. 235

“The Loud Cry”

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“The Seal of God and the Mark of the Beast”

August 12th

Many Adventists Brace Themselves Against the Light

Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

2 Timothy 3:5

There is to be in the [Seventh-day Adventist] churches a wonderful manifestation of the power of God, but it will not move upon those who have not humbled themselves before the Lord, and opened the door of the heart by confession and repentance. In the manifestation of that power which lightens the earth with the glory of God, they will see only something which in their blindness they think dangerous, something which will arouse their fears, and they will brace themselves to resist it. Because the Lord does not work according to their ideas and expectations they will oppose the work. "Why," they say, "should we not know the Spirit of God, when we have been in the work so many years?"—*The Review and Herald Extra*, Dec. 23, 1890.

The third angel's message will not be comprehended, the light which will lighten the earth with its glory will be called a false light, by those who refuse to walk in its advancing glory. —*The Review and Herald*, May 27, 1890.

Daily Scripture**Monday, August 12th, 2024****2nd Samuel Chapter 13****Amnon and Tamar**

- 2Sa 13:1 And it came to pass after this, that Absalom the son of David had a fair sister, whose name *was* Tamar; and Amnon the son of David loved her.
- 2Sa 13:2 And Amnon was so vexed, that he fell sick for his sister Tamar; for she *was* a virgin; and Amnon thought it hard for him to do anything to her.
- 2Sa 13:3 But Amnon had a friend, whose name *was* Jonadab, the son of Shimeah David's brother: and Jonadab *was* a very subtle man.
- 2Sa 13:4 And he said unto him, Why *art* thou, *being* the king's son, lean from day to day? wilt thou not tell me? And Amnon said unto him, I love Tamar, my brother Absalom's sister.
- 2Sa 13:5 And Jonadab said unto him, Lay thee down on thy bed, and make thyself sick: and when thy father cometh to see thee, say unto him, I pray thee, let my sister Tamar come, and give me meat, and dress the meat in my sight, that I may see *it*, and eat *it* at her hand.
- 2Sa 13:6 So Amnon lay down, and made himself sick: and when the king was come to see him, Amnon said unto the king, I pray thee, let Tamar my sister come, and make me a couple of cakes in my sight, that I may eat at her hand.
- 2Sa 13:7 Then David sent home to Tamar, saying, Go now to thy brother Amnon's house, and dress him meat.
- 2Sa 13:8 So Tamar went to her brother Amnon's house; and he was laid down. And she took flour, and kneaded *it*, and made cakes in his sight, and did bake the cakes.
- 2Sa 13:9 And she took a pan, and poured *them* out before him; but he refused to eat. And Amnon said, Have out all men from me. And they went out every man from him.
- 2Sa 13:10 And Amnon said unto Tamar, Bring the meat into the chamber, that I may eat of thine hand. And Tamar took the cakes which she had made, and brought *them* into the chamber to Amnon her brother.
- 2Sa 13:11 And when she had brought *them* unto him to eat, he took hold of her, and said unto her, Come lie with me, my sister.
- 2Sa 13:12 And she answered him, Nay, my brother, do not force me; for no such thing ought to be done in Israel: do not thou this folly.
- 2Sa 13:13 And I, whither shall I cause my shame to go? and as for thee, thou shalt be as one of the fools in Israel. Now therefore, I pray thee, speak unto the king; for he will not withhold me from thee.
- 2Sa 13:14 Howbeit he would not hearken unto her voice: but, being stronger than she, forced her, and lay with her.
- 2Sa 13:15 Then Amnon hated her exceedingly; so that the hatred wherewith he hated her *was* greater than the love wherewith he had loved her. And Amnon said unto her, Arise, be gone.
- 2Sa 13:16 And she said unto him, *There is* no cause: this evil in sending me away *is* greater than the other that thou didst unto me. But he would not hearken unto her.
- 2Sa 13:17 Then he called his servant that ministered unto him, and said, Put now this *woman* out from me, and bolt the door after her.
- 2Sa 13:18 And *she had* a garment of divers colours upon her: for with such robes were the king's daughters *that were* virgins apparelled. Then his servant brought her out, and bolted the door after her.
- 2Sa 13:19 And Tamar put ashes on her head, and rent her garment of divers colours that *was* on her, and laid her hand on her head, and went on crying.
- 2Sa 13:20 And Absalom her brother said unto her, Hath Amnon thy brother been with thee? but hold now thy peace, my sister: he *is* thy brother; regard not this thing. So Tamar remained desolate in her brother Absalom's house.
- 2Sa 13:21 But when king David heard of all these things, he was very wroth.
- 2Sa 13:22 And Absalom spake unto his brother Amnon neither good nor bad: for Absalom hated Amnon, because he had forced his sister Tamar.

Absalom Murders Amnon

- 2Sa 13:23 And it came to pass after two full years, that Absalom had sheepshearers in Baalhazor, which *is* beside Ephraim: and Absalom invited all the king's sons.
- 2Sa 13:24 And Absalom came to the king, and said, Behold now, thy servant hath sheepshearers; let the king, I beseech thee, and his servants go with thy servant.
- 2Sa 13:25 And the king said to Absalom, Nay, my son, let us not all now go, lest we be chargeable unto thee. And he pressed him: howbeit he would not go, but blessed him.
- 2Sa 13:26 Then said Absalom, If not, I pray thee, let my brother Amnon go with us. And the king said unto him, Why should he go with thee?
- 2Sa 13:27 But Absalom pressed him, that he let Amnon and all the king's sons go with him.
- 2Sa 13:28 Now Absalom had commanded his servants, saying, Mark ye now when Amnon's heart is merry with wine, and when I say unto you, Smite Amnon; then kill him, fear not: have not I commanded you? be courageous, and be valiant.
- 2Sa 13:29 And the servants of Absalom did unto Amnon as Absalom had commanded. Then all the king's sons arose, and every man gat him up upon his mule, and fled.
- 2Sa 13:30 And it came to pass, while they were in the way, that tidings came to David, saying, Absalom hath slain all the king's sons, and there is not one of them left.
- 2Sa 13:31 Then the king arose, and tare his garments, and lay on the earth; and all his servants stood by with their clothes rent.
- 2Sa 13:32 And Jonadab, the son of Shimeah David's brother, answered and said, Let not my lord suppose *that* they have slain all the young men the king's sons; for Amnon only is dead: for by the appointment of Absalom this hath been determined from the day that he forced his sister Tamar.
- 2Sa 13:33 Now therefore let not my lord the king take the thing to his heart, to think that all the king's sons are dead: for Amnon only is dead.

Absalom Flees to Geshur

- 2Sa 13:34 But Absalom fled. And the young man that kept the watch lifted up his eyes, and looked, and, behold, there came much people by the way of the hill side behind him.
- 2Sa 13:35 And Jonadab said unto the king, Behold, the king's sons come: as thy servant said, so it is.
- 2Sa 13:36 And it came to pass, as soon as he had made an end of speaking, that, behold, the king's sons came, and lifted up their voice and wept: and the king also and all his servants wept very sore.
- 2Sa 13:37 But Absalom fled, and went to Talmai, the son of Ammihud, king of Geshur. And *David* mourned for his son every day.
- 2Sa 13:38 So Absalom fled, and went to Geshur, and was there three years.
- 2Sa 13:39 And *the soul of* king David longed to go forth unto Absalom: for he was comforted concerning Amnon, seeing he was dead.

Tuesday – August 13th

1. What is needed in order to receive a new heart?

➤ **Ezekiel 18:31** —

NOTE : ‘Conversion is a change of heart, a turning from unrighteousness to righteousness. Relying upon the merits of Christ, exercising true faith in Him, the repentant sinner receives pardon for sin. As he ceases to do evil and learns to do well, he grows in grace and in the knowledge of God. He sees that in order to follow Jesus he must separate from the world, and after counting the cost, he looks upon all as loss if he may but win Christ. He enlists in His army and bravely and cheerfully engages in the warfare, fighting against natural inclinations and selfish desires and bringing the will into subjection to the will of Christ. Daily he seeks the Lord for grace, and he is strengthened and helped. Self once reigned in his heart, and worldly pleasure was his delight. Now self is dethroned, and God reigns supreme. His life reveals the fruit of righteousness. The sins he once loved he now hates. Firmly and resolutely he follows in the path of holiness. This is genuine conversion.’ — *In Heavenly Places, page 20.*

2. What will be the outcome of the new birth?

➤ **Ezekiel 36:27** —

➤ **1 Peter 1:22-23** —

➤ **1 John 5:18** —

➤ **1 John 2:29** —

NOTE : ‘In the new birth the heart is brought into harmony with God, as it is brought into accord with His law. When this mighty change has taken place in the sinner, he has passed from death unto life, from sin unto holiness, from transgression and rebellion to obedience and loyalty. The followers of Christ are to become like Him, by the grace of God to form characters in harmony with the principles of His holy law. This is Bible sanctification.’ — *God’s Amazing Grace, page 20.*

3. Heaven’s Hotline

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Last Day Events***Tuesday, August 13th, 2024******Last Day Events, Chapter 8, pp. 236******“The Loud Cry”*****--*****“The Seal of God and the Mark of the Beast”*****August 13th****Most Non-Adventists Will Reject the Warning**

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

Hosea 4:6

Many who hear the message--by far the greatest number--will not credit the solemn warning. Many will be found disloyal to the commandments of God, which are a test of character. The Lord's servants will be called enthusiasts. Ministers will warn the people not to listen to them. Noah received the same treatment while the Spirit of God was urging him to give the message, whether men would hear or whether they would forbear.—*Testimonies for Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 233 (1895).

Some will listen to these warnings, but by the vast majority they will be disregarded.—*In Heavenly Places*, p. 343 (1897).

The popular ministry, like the Pharisees of old, filled with anger as their authority is questioned, will denounce the message as of Satan, and stir up the sin-loving multitudes to revile and persecute those who proclaim it.—*The Great Controversy*, p. 607 (1911).

*Daily Scripture**Tuesday, August 13th, 2024***2nd Samuel Chapter 14****Absalom Returns to Jerusalem**

- 2Sa 14:1 Now Joab the son of Zeruiah perceived that the king's heart *was* toward Absalom.
- 2Sa 14:2 And Joab sent to Tekoah, and fetched thence a wise woman, and said unto her, I pray thee, feign thyself to be a mourner, and put on now mourning apparel, and anoint not thyself with oil, but be as a woman that had a long time mourned for the dead:
- 2Sa 14:3 And come to the king, and speak on this manner unto him. So Joab put the words in her mouth.
- 2Sa 14:4 And when the woman of Tekoah spake to the king, she fell on her face to the ground, and did obeisance, and said, Help, O king.
- 2Sa 14:5 And the king said unto her, What ails thee? And she answered, I *am* indeed a widow woman, and mine husband is dead.
- 2Sa 14:6 And thy handmaid had two sons, and they two strove together in the field, and *there was* none to part them, but the one smote the other, and slew him.
- 2Sa 14:7 And, behold, the whole family is risen against thine handmaid, and they said, Deliver him that smote his brother, that we may kill him, for the life of his brother whom he slew; and we will destroy the heir also: and so they shall quench my coal which is left, and shall not leave to my husband *neither* name nor remainder upon the earth.
- 2Sa 14:8 And the king said unto the woman, Go to thine house, and I will give charge concerning thee.
- 2Sa 14:9 And the woman of Tekoah said unto the king, My lord, O king, the iniquity *be* on me, and on my father's house: and the king and his throne *be* guiltless.
- 2Sa 14:10 And the king said, Whosoever saith *ought* unto thee, bring him to me, and he shall not touch thee any more.
- 2Sa 14:11 Then said she, I pray thee, let the king remember the LORD thy God, that thou would not suffer the revengers of blood to destroy any more, lest they destroy my son. And he said, *As* the LORD lives, there shall not one hair of thy son fall to the earth.
- 2Sa 14:12 Then the woman said, Let thine handmaid, I pray thee, speak *one* word unto my lord the king. And he said, Say on.
- 2Sa 14:13 And the woman said, Wherefore then hast thou thought such a thing against the people of God? for the king doth speak this thing as one which is faulty, in that the king doth not fetch home again his banished.
- 2Sa 14:14 For we must needs die, and *are* as water spilt on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again; neither doth God respect *any* person: yet doth he devise means, that his banished be not expelled from him.
- 2Sa 14:15 Now therefore that I am come to speak of this thing unto my lord the king, *it is* because the people have made me afraid: and thy handmaid said, I will now speak unto the king; it may be that the king will perform the request of his handmaid.
- 2Sa 14:16 For the king will hear, to deliver his handmaid out of the hand of the man *that would* destroy me and my son together out of the inheritance of God.
- 2Sa 14:17 Then thine handmaid said, The word of my lord the king shall now be comfortable: for as an angel of God, so *is* my lord the king to discern good and bad: therefore the LORD thy God will be with thee.
- 2Sa 14:18 Then the king answered and said unto the woman, Hide not from me, I pray thee, the thing that I shall ask thee. And the woman said, Let my lord the king now speak.
- 2Sa 14:19 And the king said, *Is not* the hand of Joab with thee in all this? And the woman answered and said, *As* thy soul lives, my lord the king, none can turn to the right hand or to the left from ought that my lord the king hath spoken: for thy servant Joab, he bade me, and he put all these words in the mouth of thine handmaid:

- 2Sa 14:20 To fetch about this form of speech hath thy servant Joab done this thing: and my lord *is* wise, according to the wisdom of an angel of God, to know all *things* that *are* in the earth.
- 2Sa 14:21 And the king said unto Joab, Behold now, I have done this thing: go therefore, bring the young man Absalom again.
- 2Sa 14:22 And Joab fell to the ground on his face, and bowed himself, and thanked the king: and Joab said, To day thy servant knows that I have found grace in thy sight, my lord, O king, in that the king hath fulfilled the request of his servant.
- 2Sa 14:23 So Joab arose and went to Geshur, and brought Absalom to Jerusalem.
- 2Sa 14:24 And the king said, Let him turn to his own house, and let him not see my face. So Absalom returned to his own house, and saw not the king's face.
- 2Sa 14:25 But in all Israel there was none to be so much praised as Absalom for his beauty: from the sole of his foot even to the crown of his head there was no blemish in him.
- 2Sa 14:26 And when he polled his head, (for it was at every year's end that he polled *it*: because *the hair* was heavy on him, therefore he polled it:) he weighed the hair of his head at two hundred shekels after the king's weight.
- 2Sa 14:27 And unto Absalom there were born three sons, and one daughter, whose name *was* Tamar: she was a woman of a fair countenance.
- 2Sa 14:28 So Absalom dwelt two full years in Jerusalem, and saw not the king's face.
- 2Sa 14:29 Therefore Absalom sent for Joab, to have sent him to the king; but he would not come to him: and when he sent again the second time, he would not come.
- 2Sa 14:30 Therefore he said unto his servants, See, Joab's field is near mine, and he hath barley there; go and set it on fire. And Absalom's servants set the field on fire.
- 2Sa 14:31 Then Joab arose, and came to Absalom unto *his* house, and said unto him, Wherefore have thy servants set my field on fire?
- 2Sa 14:32 And Absalom answered Joab, Behold, I sent unto thee, saying, Come hither, that I may send thee to the king, to say, Wherefore am I come from Geshur? *it had been* good for me *to have been* there still: now therefore let me see the king's face; and if there be *any* iniquity in me, let him kill me.
- 2Sa 14:33 So Joab came to the king, and told him: and when he had called for Absalom, he came to the king, and bowed himself on his face to the ground before the king: and the king kissed Absalom.

Wednesday – August 14th

1. How did Paul describe the new birth experience?

➤ Romans 12:2 —

NOTE : ‘You will be in constant peril until you understand the true force of the will... Your part is to put your will on the side of Christ. When you yield your will to His, He immediately takes possession of you, and works in you to will and to do of His good pleasure. Your nature is brought under the control of His Spirit. Even your thoughts are subject to Him. If you cannot control your impulses, your emotions, as you may desire, you can control the will, and thus an entire change will be wrought in your life. When you yield up your will to Christ, your life is hid with Christ in God. It is allied to the power which is above all principalities and powers. You have a strength from God that holds you fast to His strength; and a new life, even the life of faith, is possible to you. You can never be successful in elevating yourself, unless your will is on the side of Christ, co-operating with the Spirit of God. Do not feel that you cannot; but say, “I can, I will.” And God has pledged His Holy Spirit to help you in every decided effort.’ —*My Life Today*, page 318.

9. Is it possible to those who have received the Holy Spirit to fall away?

➤ Hebrews 6:4-6 —

NOTE : ‘There is a constant warring of the flesh against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh. The pollutions cherished in the soul war against the pure, sanctifying truth. Some have advanced the idea that if we are once in grace, we are always in grace. But our work is to overcome every day. Temptations press upon every hand; do we resist them, and come off victor in the name of Christ?’ —*Signs of the Times*, August 6, 1885.

‘There is no such thing in the Word of God as unconditional election, once in grace, always in grace. In the second chapter of Second Peter the subject is made plain and distinct. After a history of some who followed an evil course, the explanation is given: “Which have forsaken the right way... following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness.” 2 Peter 2:15. Here is a class of whom the apostle warns, “For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.” 2 Peter 2:21. There is truth to be received if souls are saved. The keeping of the commandments of God is life eternal to the receiver. But the Scriptures make it plain that those who once knew the way of life and rejoiced in the truth are in danger of falling through apostasy, and being lost. Therefore there is need of a decided, daily conversion to God. All who seek to sustain the doctrine of election, once in grace, always in grace, do this against a plain, “Thus saith the Lord.”’ —*The Faith I Live By*, page 157.

2. Heaven’s Hotline

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Last Day Events***Wednesday, August 14th, 2024******Last Day Events, Chapter 8, pp. 237******“The Loud Cry”***

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“The Seal of God and the Mark of the Beast”**August 14th****Multitudes Will Answer the Call**

And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.

John 10:16

Souls that were scattered all through the religious bodies answered to the call, and the precious were hurried out of the doomed churches, as Lot was hurried out of Sodom before her destruction.—*Early Writings*, p. 279 (1858).

There will be an army of steadfast believers who will stand as firm as a rock through the last test.—*Selected Messages, Book 3*, p. 390 (1888).

There are many souls to come out of the ranks of the world, out of the churches--even the Catholic Church--whose zeal will far exceed that of those who have stood in rank and file to proclaim the truth heretofore. —*Selected Messages, Book 3*, p. 386, 387 (1889).

Multitudes will receive the faith and join the armies of the Lord.—*Evangelism*, p. 700 (1895).

Many who have strayed from the fold will come back to follow the great Shepherd.—*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 401 (1900).

In heathen Africa, in the Catholic lands of Europe and of South America, in China, in India, in the islands of the sea, and in all the dark corners of the earth, God has in reserve a firmament of chosen ones that will yet shine forth amidst the darkness, revealing clearly to an apostate world the transforming power of obedience to His law. Even now they are appearing in every nation, among every tongue and people; and in the hour of deepest apostasy, when Satan's supreme effort is made to cause "all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond," to receive, under penalty of death, the sign of allegiance to a false rest day, these faithful ones, "blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke," will "shine as lights in the world."—*Prophets and Kings*, p. 188, 189 (c. 1914).

Daily Scripture**Wednesday, August 14th, 2024****2nd Samuel Chapter 15****Absalom's Conspiracy**

- 2Sa 15:1 And it came to pass after this, that Absalom prepared him chariots and horses, and fifty men to run before him.
- 2Sa 15:2 And Absalom rose up early, and stood beside the way of the gate: and it was *so*, that when any man that had a controversy came to the king for judgment, then Absalom called unto him, and said, Of what city *art* thou? And he said, Thy servant *is* of one of the tribes of Israel.
- 2Sa 15:3 And Absalom said unto him, See, thy matters *are* good and right; but *there is* no man *deputed* of the king to hear thee.
- 2Sa 15:4 Absalom said moreover, Oh that I were made judge in the land, that every man which hath any suit or cause might come unto me, and I would do him justice!
- 2Sa 15:5 And it was *so*, that when any man came nigh *to him* to do him obeisance, he put forth his hand, and took him, and kissed him.
- 2Sa 15:6 And on this manner did Absalom to all Israel that came to the king for judgment: so Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel.
- 2Sa 15:7 And it came to pass after forty years, that Absalom said unto the king, I pray thee, let me go and pay my vow, which I have vowed unto the LORD, in Hebron.
- 2Sa 15:8 For thy servant vowed a vow while I abode at Geshur in Syria, saying, If the LORD shall bring me again indeed to Jerusalem, then I will serve the LORD.
- 2Sa 15:9 And the king said unto him, Go in peace. So he arose, and went to Hebron.
- 2Sa 15:10 But Absalom sent spies throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, As soon as ye hear the sound of the trumpet, then ye shall say, Absalom reigns in Hebron.
- 2Sa 15:11 And with Absalom went two hundred men out of Jerusalem, *that were* called; and they went in their simplicity, and they knew not anything.
- 2Sa 15:12 And Absalom sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite, David's counsellor, from his city, *even* from Giloh, while he offered sacrifices. And the conspiracy was strong; for the people increased continually with Absalom.

David Flees Jerusalem

- 2Sa 15:13 And there came a messenger to David, saying, The hearts of the men of Israel are after Absalom.
- 2Sa 15:14 And David said unto all his servants that *were* with him at Jerusalem, Arise, and let us flee; for we shall not *else* escape from Absalom: make speed to depart, lest he overtake us suddenly, and bring evil upon us, and smite the city with the edge of the sword.
- 2Sa 15:15 And the king's servants said unto the king, Behold, thy servants *are ready to do* whatsoever my lord the king shall appoint.
- 2Sa 15:16 And the king went forth, and all his household after him. And the king left ten women, *which were* concubines, to keep the house.
- 2Sa 15:17 And the king went forth, and all the people after him, and tarried in a place that was far off.
- 2Sa 15:18 And all his servants passed on beside him; and all the Cherethites, and all the Pelethites, and all the Gittites, six hundred men which came after him from Gath, passed on before the king.
- 2Sa 15:19 Then said the king to Ittai the Gittite, Wherefore go thou also with us? return to thy place, and abide with the king: for thou *art* a stranger, and also an exile.
- 2Sa 15:20 Whereas thou came *but* yesterday, should I this day make thee go up and down with us? seeing I go whither I may, return thou, and take back thy brethren: mercy and truth *be* with thee.
- 2Sa 15:21 And Ittai answered the king, and said, *As* the LORD lives, and *as* my lord the king lives, surely in what place my lord the king shall be, whether in death or life, even there also will thy servant be.

- 2Sa 15:22 And David said to Ittai, Go and pass over. And Ittai the Gittite passed over, and all his men, and all the little ones that *were* with him.
- 2Sa 15:23 And all the country wept with a loud voice, and all the people passed over: the king also himself passed over the brook Kidron, and all the people passed over, toward the way of the wilderness.
- 2Sa 15:24 And lo Zadok also, and all the Levites *were* with him, bearing the ark of the covenant of God: and they set down the ark of God; and Abiathar went up, until all the people had done passing out of the city.
- 2Sa 15:25 And the king said unto Zadok, Carry back the ark of God into the city: if I shall find favour in the eyes of the LORD, he will bring me again, and shew me *both* it, and his habitation:
- 2Sa 15:26 But if he thus say, I have no delight in thee; behold, *here am* I, let him do to me as seems good unto him.
- 2Sa 15:27 The king said also unto Zadok the priest, *Art not* thou a seer? return into the city in peace, and your two sons with you, Ahimaaz thy son, and Jonathan the son of Abiathar.
- 2Sa 15:28 See, I will tarry in the plain of the wilderness, until there come word from you to certify me.
- 2Sa 15:29 Zadok therefore and Abiathar carried the ark of God again to Jerusalem: and they tarried there.
- 2Sa 15:30 And David went up by the ascent of *mount* Olivet, and wept as he went up, and had his head covered, and he went barefoot: and all the people that *was* with him covered every man his head, and they went up, weeping as they went up.
- 2Sa 15:31 And *one* told David, saying, Ahithophel *is* among the conspirators with Absalom. And David said, O LORD, I pray thee, turn the counsel of Ahithophel into foolishness.
- 2Sa 15:32 And it came to pass, that *when* David was come to the top *of the mount*, where he worshipped God, behold, Hushai the Archite came to meet him with his coat rent, and earth upon his head:
- 2Sa 15:33 Unto whom David said, If thou passes on with me, then thou shalt be a burden unto me:
- 2Sa 15:34 But if thou return to the city, and say unto Absalom, I will be thy servant, O king; *as I have been* thy father's servant hitherto, so *will* I now also *be* thy servant: then may thou for me defeat the counsel of Ahithophel.
- 2Sa 15:35 And *hast thou* not there with thee Zadok and Abiathar the priests? therefore it shall be, *that* what thing soever thou shalt hear out of the king's house, thou shalt tell *it* to Zadok and Abiathar the priests.
- 2Sa 15:36 Behold, *they have* there with them their two sons, Ahimaaz Zadok's *son*, and Jonathan Abiathar's *son*; and by them ye shall send unto me everything that ye can hear.
- 2Sa 15:37 So Hushai David's friend came into the city, and Absalom came into Jerusalem.

Thursday – August 15th

1. What fruitage will be seen in the life of the one who is born again?

➤ **1 John 4:7 —**

NOTE: ‘All who have been born into the heavenly family are in a special sense the brethren of our Lord. The love of Christ binds together the members of His family, and wherever that love is made manifest there the divine relationship is revealed. “Everyone that loves is born of God, and knows God.” 1 John 4:7.’ — *The Desire of Ages*, page 638.

2. Heaven’s Hotline

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Last Day Events

Thursday, August 15th, 2024

Last Day Events, Chapter 8, pp. 238

“The Loud Cry”

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“The Seal of God and the Mark of the Beast”

August 15th

Thousands Converted in a Day

Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand.

Acts 4:4

Thousands in the eleventh hour will see and acknowledge the truth. . . . These conversions to truth will be made with a rapidity that will surprise the church, and God's name alone will be glorified.—*Selected Messages, vol. 2, p. 16 (1890).*

There will be thousands converted to the truth in a day who at the eleventh hour see and acknowledge the truth and the movements of the Spirit of God.—*EGW 1888, p. 755 (1890).*

The time is coming when there will be as many converted in a day as there were on the Day of Pentecost, after the disciples had received the Holy Spirit.—*Evangelism, p. 692 (1905).*

Daily Scripture**Thursday, August 15th, 2024****2nd Samuel Chapter 16****David and Ziba**

- 2Sa 16:1 And when David was a little past the top *of the hill*, behold, Ziba the servant of Mephibosheth met him, with a couple of asses saddled, and upon them two hundred *loaves* of bread, and an hundred bunches of raisins, and an hundred of summer fruits, and a bottle of wine.
- 2Sa 16:2 And the king said unto Ziba, What meanest thou by these? And Ziba said, The asses *be* for the king's household to ride on; and the bread and summer fruit for the young men to eat; and the wine, that such as be faint in the wilderness may drink.
- 2Sa 16:3 And the king said, And where *is* thy master's son? And Ziba said unto the king, Behold, he abides at Jerusalem: for he said, To day shall the house of Israel restore me the kingdom of my father.
- 2Sa 16:4 Then said the king to Ziba, Behold, thine *are* all that *pertained* unto Mephibosheth. And Ziba said, I humbly beseech thee *that* I may find grace in thy sight, my lord, O king.

Shimei Curses David

- 2Sa 16:5 And when king David came to Bahurim, behold, thence came out a man of the family of the house of Saul, whose name *was* Shimei, the son of Gera: he came forth, and cursed still as he came.
- 2Sa 16:6 And he cast stones at David, and at all the servants of king David: and all the people and all the mighty men *were* on his right hand and on his left.
- 2Sa 16:7 And thus said Shimei when he cursed, Come out, come out, thou bloody man, and thou man of Belial:
- 2Sa 16:8 The LORD hath returned upon thee all the blood of the house of Saul, in whose stead thou hast reigned; and the LORD hath delivered the kingdom into the hand of Absalom thy son: and, behold, thou *art taken* in thy mischief, because thou *art* a bloody man.
- 2Sa 16:9 Then said Abishai the son of Zeruiah unto the king, Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? let me go over, I pray thee, and take off his head.
- 2Sa 16:10 And the king said, What have I to do with you, ye sons of Zeruiah? so let him curse, because the LORD hath said unto him, Curse David. Who shall then say, Wherefore hast thou done so?
- 2Sa 16:11 And David said to Abishai, and to all his servants, Behold, my son, which came forth of my bowels, seeks my life: how much more now *may this* Benjamite *do it*? let him alone, and let him curse; for the LORD hath bidden him.
- 2Sa 16:12 It may be that the LORD will look on mine affliction, and that the LORD will requite me good for his cursing this day.
- 2Sa 16:13 And as David and his men went by the way, Shimei went along on the hill's side over against him, and cursed as he went, and threw stones at him, and cast dust.
- 2Sa 16:14 And the king, and all the people that *were* with him, came weary, and refreshed themselves there.

Absalom Enters Jerusalem

- 2Sa 16:15 And Absalom, and all the people the men of Israel, came to Jerusalem, and Ahithophel with him.
- 2Sa 16:16 And it came to pass, when Hushai the Archite, David's friend, was come unto Absalom, that Hushai said unto Absalom, God save the king, God save the king.
- 2Sa 16:17 And Absalom said to Hushai, *Is* this thy kindness to thy friend? why went thou not with thy friend?
- 2Sa 16:18 And Hushai said unto Absalom, Nay; but whom the LORD, and this people, and all the men of Israel, choose, his will I be, and with him will I abide.
- 2Sa 16:19 And again, whom should I serve? *should I* not *serve* in the presence of his son? as I have served in thy father's presence, so will I be in thy presence.
- 2Sa 16:20 Then said Absalom to Ahithophel, Give counsel among you what we shall do.

- 2Sa 16:21 And Ahithophel said unto Absalom, Go in unto thy father's concubines, which he hath left to keep the house; and all Israel shall hear that thou art abhorred of thy father: then shall the hands of all that *are* with thee be strong.
- 2Sa 16:22 So they spread Absalom a tent upon the top of the house; and Absalom went in unto his father's concubines in the sight of all Israel.
- 2Sa 16:23 And the counsel of Ahithophel, which he counselled in those days, *was* as if a man had enquired at the oracle of God: so *was* all the counsel of Ahithophel both with David and with Absalom.

*Preparation Day – August 16th***1. What assurance do we have that those who are born again will experience victory over their sins?**

➤ **1 John 5:4** —

➤ **1 John 3:9** —

NOTE: ‘He who repents of his sin and accepts the gift of the life of the Son of God, cannot be overcome. Laying hold by faith of the divine nature, he becomes a child of God. He prays, he believes. When tempted and tried, he claims the power that Christ died to give, and overcomes through His grace. This every sinner needs to understand. He must repent of his sins, he must believe in the power of Christ, and accept that power to save and to keep him from sin. The Christian is not to retain his sinful habits and cherish his defects of character; but he is to be renewed in the spirit of his mind after the divine similitude. Whatever may be the nature of your defects, the Spirit of the Lord will enable you to discern them, and grace will be given you whereby they may be overcome. Through the merits of the blood of Christ you may be a conqueror, yes, more than a conqueror. The truth must be admitted into the soul, and it will work the sanctification of the character. It will refine, and elevate the life, and fit you for an entrance into the mansions which Jesus has gone to prepare for those who love Him. Heaven is worth everything to us, and if we lose heaven we lose all.’ —*Sons & Daughters of God*, page 349.

2. Heaven’s Hotline

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Last Day Events***Preparation Day, August 16th, 2024******Last Day Events, Chapter 8, pp. 239*****“The Loud Cry”****--****“The Seal of God and the Mark of the Beast”****August 16th****The Honest-in-Heart Will Not Hesitate Long****Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;****Ephesians 6:14**

A good many do not see it now, to take their position, but these things are influencing their lives, and when the message goes with a loud voice they will be ready for it. They will not hesitate long; they will come out and take their position.—*Evangelism*, p. 300, 301 (1890).

Soon the last test is to come to all inhabitants of the earth. At that time prompt decisions will be made. Those who have been convicted under the presentation of the Word will range themselves under the bloodstained banner of Prince Emmanuel.—*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 9, p. 149 (1909).

Every truly honest soul will come to the light of truth.—*The Great Controversy*, p. 522 (1911).

The message will be carried not so much by argument as by the deep conviction of the Spirit of God. The arguments have been presented. The seed has been sown, and now it will spring up and bear fruit. The publications distributed by missionary workers have exerted their influence, yet many whose minds were impressed have been prevented from fully comprehending the truth or from yielding obedience. Now the rays of light penetrate everywhere, the truth is seen in its clearness, and the honest children of God sever the bands which have held them. Family connections, church relations, are powerless to stay them now. Truth is more precious than all besides. Notwithstanding the agencies combined against the truth, a large number take their stand upon the Lord's side. — *The Great Controversy*, p. 612 (1911).

Daily Scripture**Preparation Day, August 16th, 2024****2nd Samuel Chapter 17****Hushai Saves David**

- 2Sa 17:1 Moreover Ahithophel said unto Absalom, Let me now choose out twelve thousand men, and I will arise and pursue after David this night:
- 2Sa 17:2 And I will come upon him while he *is* weary and weak handed, and will make him afraid: and all the people that *are* with him shall flee; and I will smite the king only:
- 2Sa 17:3 And I will bring back all the people unto thee: the man whom thou seek *is* as if all returned: *so* all the people shall be in peace.
- 2Sa 17:4 And the saying pleased Absalom well, and all the elders of Israel.
- 2Sa 17:5 Then said Absalom, Call now Hushai the Archite also, and let us hear likewise what he saith.
- 2Sa 17:6 And when Hushai was come to Absalom, Absalom spake unto him, saying, Ahithophel hath spoken after this manner: shall we do *after* his saying? if not; speak thou.
- 2Sa 17:7 And Hushai said unto Absalom, The counsel that Ahithophel hath given *is* not good at this time.
- 2Sa 17:8 For, said Hushai, thou knows thy father and his men, that they *be* mighty men, and they *be* chafed in their minds, as a bear robbed of her whelps in the field: and thy father *is* a man of war, and will not lodge with the people.
- 2Sa 17:9 Behold, he is hid now in some pit, or in some *other* place: and it will come to pass, when some of them be overthrown at the first, that whosoever hears it will say, There is a slaughter among the people that follow Absalom.
- 2Sa 17:10 And he also *that is* valiant, whose heart *is* as the heart of a lion, shall utterly melt: for all Israel knows that thy father *is* a mighty man, and *they* which *be* with him *are* valiant men.
- 2Sa 17:11 Therefore I counsel that all Israel be generally gathered unto thee, from Dan even to Beersheba, as the sand that *is* by the sea for multitude; and that thou go to battle in thine own person.
- 2Sa 17:12 So shall we come upon him in some place where he shall be found, and we will light upon him as the dew falls on the ground: and of him and of all the men that *are* with him there shall not be left so much as one.
- 2Sa 17:13 Moreover, if he be gotten into a city, then shall all Israel bring ropes to that city, and we will draw it into the river, until there be not one small stone found there.
- 2Sa 17:14 And Absalom and all the men of Israel said, The counsel of Hushai the Archite *is* better than the counsel of Ahithophel. For the LORD had appointed to defeat the good counsel of Ahithophel, to the intent that the LORD might bring evil upon Absalom.
- 2Sa 17:15 Then said Hushai unto Zadok and to Abiathar the priests, Thus and thus did Ahithophel counsel Absalom and the elders of Israel; and thus and thus have I counselled.
- 2Sa 17:16 Now therefore send quickly, and tell David, saying, Lodge not this night in the plains of the wilderness, but speedily pass over; lest the king be swallowed up, and all the people that *are* with him.
- 2Sa 17:17 Now Jonathan and Ahimaaz stayed by Enrogel; for they might not be seen to come into the city: and a wench went and told them; and they went and told king David.
- 2Sa 17:18 Nevertheless a lad saw them, and told Absalom: but they went both of them away quickly, and came to a man's house in Bahurim, which had a well in his court; whither they went down.
- 2Sa 17:19 And the woman took and spread a covering over the well's mouth, and spread ground corn thereon; and the thing was not known.
- 2Sa 17:20 And when Absalom's servants came to the woman to the house, they said, Where *is* Ahimaaz and Jonathan? And the woman said unto them, They be gone over the brook of water. And when they had sought and could not find *them*, they returned to Jerusalem.

- 2Sa 17:21 And it came to pass, after they were departed, that they came up out of the well, and went and told king David, and said unto David, Arise, and pass quickly over the water: for thus hath Ahithophel counselled against you.
- 2Sa 17:22 Then David arose, and all the people that *were* with him, and they passed over Jordan: by the morning light there lacked not one of them that was not gone over Jordan.
- 2Sa 17:23 And when Ahithophel saw that his counsel was not followed, he saddled *his* ass, and arose, and gat him home to his house, to his city, and put his household in order, and hanged himself, and died, and was buried in the sepulchre of his father.
- 2Sa 17:24 Then David came to Mahanaim. And Absalom passed over Jordan, he and all the men of Israel with him.
- 2Sa 17:25 And Absalom made Amasa captain of the host instead of Joab: which Amasa *was* a man's son, whose name *was* Ithra an Israelite, that went in to Abigail the daughter of Nahash, sister to Zeruiah Joab's mother.
- 2Sa 17:26 So Israel and Absalom pitched in the land of Gilead.
- 2Sa 17:27 And it came to pass, when David was come to Mahanaim, that Shobi the son of Nahash of Rabbah of the children of Ammon, and Machir the son of Ammiel of Lodebar, and Barzillai the Gileadite of Rogelim,
- 2Sa 17:28 Brought beds, and basons, and earthen vessels, and wheat, and barley, and flour, and parched *corn*, and beans, and lentils, and parched *pulse*,
- 2Sa 17:29 And honey, and butter, and sheep, and cheese of kine, for David, and for the people that *were* with him, to eat: for they said, The people *is* hungry, and weary, and thirsty, in the wilderness.

*Adult Mission Story**Preparation Day, August 16th, 2024*

Wilinton [WILL-ing-ton] drank alcohol for the first time after church one Sabbath in Bogotá, Colombia. He was 14, and he gave in to pressure from friends.

After the first drink, he drank nearly every day for the next 24 years.

Wilinton moved out of his parents' house when he was 17. Then he moved in with his girlfriend and lived with her for 21 years. They had two sons. He drank at every opportunity. Because of his drinking, he couldn't hold down a job.

One day, a friend of his father came to his house and found him drunk.

"Wilinton, I know your father," said the friend, whose name was Jaime. [hi-MEE] "You can return to God."

"Are you an Adventist?" Wilinton asked, his speech slurred.

"Yes, I'm an Adventist," Jaime said.

"If you are an Adventist, sing to me Hymn No. 500," Wilinton said. The hymn was "Far Beyond the Sun."

Jaime sang the hymn, and Wilinton wept. When the song ended, Wilinton recited his favourite Bible verse. It was John 3:16.

That day marked the beginning of a new friendship.

Over the next three years, Jaime kept visiting Wilinton and telling him, "Please, come back to God."

Wilinton always had the same reply. “Yes,” he said. “Don’t worry. I will.” But he didn’t.

Jaime offered Bible studies, but Wilinton wasn’t interested. He liked Jaime, but he didn’t want to spend time with God.

Still, he defended the seventh-day Sabbath to his wife and two sons, who went to church on Sundays.

“You don’t need to go to that church,” he said. “It’s a waste of time. If you want to spend your time wisely, you should go to a Seventh-day Adventist church.”

As Wilinton kept drinking without a steady income, he sank deeply into debt.

One evening, Jamie arrived at Wilinton’s house with an Adventist pastor and several other church members. The front door was open, and they entered the house before Wilinton knew it.

The pastor gave a five-minute sermon, but Wilinton didn’t hear the pastor speaking. He felt like he was hearing the voice of the Holy Spirit. The sermon touched his heart.

Then Jamie invited him to evangelistic meetings that had just begun at the Adventist church.

“Your mother asked me to tell you, ‘Come to God,’” he said.

After the visitors left, Wilinton decided to stay at home with his family.

Then his 12-year-old son came up to him.

“Father, you told me that the Seventh-day Adventist Church is the true church,” he said. “Please take me to that church.”

The words broke Wilinton’s heart. He decided to take his family to the evangelistic meetings at the Adventist church.

That evening’s presentation surprised Wilinton. He thought that it was about him. He thought, “How does this pastor know so much about me?” Then he began to weep. He thought about his alcoholism and his debts. His life of sin weighed heavily on him.

When the pastor made an altar call, Wilinton said to himself, “I can’t go to the front. When I leave, I’m going to go to the bar to drink.”

He decided not to go forward.

But before he realized it, he was standing at the front with 17 other people.

He prayed silently, “God, I can’t be here. You know that I’m going to drink tonight.”

After the meeting, he went to the bar. As he drank, he reflected on the sermon. He felt something inside him was different.

Three weeks passed, and he kept drinking. Every time he drank, he sensed that the Holy Spirit was saying, “I will help you to stop drinking if you make a firm decision to quit.”

On the fourth week, he told himself, “I can’t keep doing this. I have to make a decision, either for God or for alcohol.”

At the end of the week, on Saturday night, he chose God. He prayed, “God, I don’t want to drink anymore.” In the morning, he prayed again, saying, “God, help me today, one day at a time, to stop drinking.”

To his surprise, he didn’t drink all that day. It was his first day of victory since he started drinking at the age of 14. He thought with surprise, “I thought that I would never stop drinking, but God has helped me.”

When Jaime heard the news, he was delighted. Wilinton was coming back to God.

This mission story provides an inside look at life in Colombia and missional challenges there. Part of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help open two centers of influence to help children who are at risk of alcohol and drug abuse in Colombia. The centers of influence will be in the cities of Buenaventura and Puerto Tejada. Thank you for planning a generous offering on September 28.

By Andrew McChesney

LESSON 8

“HE SHALL SAVE HIS PEOPLE FROM THEIR SINS”

August 17 — August 23

📖 MEMORY VERSE : ‘And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call His name JESUS: for He shall save His people from their sins.’ [Matthew 1:21]

? STUDY HELP : ✓ That I May Know Him, page 361

📖 SCRIPTURE : Romans 6:19-23

🔗 LESSON AIM : To study what is meant by salvation.

🗣 INTRODUCTION : ‘Through every device possible Satan has sought to make of none effect the sacrifice of the Son of God, to render His expiation useless and His mission a failure. He has claimed that the death of Christ made obedience to the law unnecessary and permitted the sinner to come into favour with a holy God without forsaking his sin. He has declared that the Old Testament standard was lowered in the gospel and that men can come to Christ, not to be saved from their sins but in their sins.’ — *Faith & Works*, page 90.

Sabbath – August 17th

1. Why was Jesus given this name?

➤ **Matthew 1:21** —

NOTE : The name ‘Jesus’ (which is the equivalent of the Old Testament ‘Joshua’) means ‘the Lord saves.’ ‘While we were under the power of the enemy, in slavery to him, Christ gave His life a sacrifice for us. We are not our own; He has purchased us with the price of agony and blood. The object of this great sacrifice was to bring us into the liberty of sons and daughters of God. But if we cherish iniquity in our hearts, we defeat the purpose of our Saviour, and rob God of the service that is His due. Jesus came not to save men in their sins, but from their sins. “Sin is the transgression of the law,” and if we fail to obey the law, we do not accept our Saviour. The only hope we have of salvation is through Christ. If His Spirit abides in the heart, sin cannot dwell there.’ — *Review & Herald*, March 16, 1886.

2. Heaven’s Hotline

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E. G. W. Study Help 1***Sabbath, August 17th, 2024*****That I May Know Him
Chapter 12, p. 361****December 21****Robed in His Perfection**

And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.

1 John 2:28

Jesus came into the world to save sinners, not in their sins but from their sins, and to sanctify them through the truth; and in order that He may become a perfect Saviour to us, we must enter into union with Him by a personal act of faith. Christ has chosen us, we have chosen Him, and by this choice we become united to Him and are to live from henceforth, not unto ourselves, but unto Him who has died for us. But this union can only be preserved by constant watchfulness, lest we fall into temptation and make a different choice, for we are free always to take another master if we so desire. Union with Christ means an unflinching preference for Him in every act and thought.

We are to consider ourselves as constituting the family of Christ, and we are to follow Him as dear children. Adopted into the household of God, shall we not honour our Father and our kindred? . . .

We must establish an unyielding enmity between our souls and our foe, but we must open our hearts to the power and influence of the Holy Spirit. We want Satan's darkness to be shut out and the light of Heaven to flow in. We want to become so sensitive to holy influences that the lightest whisper of Jesus will move our souls. . . . Then we shall delight to do the will of God, and Christ can own us before the Father and before the holy angels as those who abide in Him. . . .

But we shall not boast of our holiness. As we have clearer views of Christ's spotless and infinite purity we shall feel as did Daniel when he beheld the glory of the Lord and said, "My comeliness was turned in me into corruption" (Daniel 10:8). We cannot say, "I am sinless" till this vile body is changed and fashioned like unto His glorious body. But if we constantly seek to follow Jesus, the blessed hope is ours of standing before the throne of God without spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing, complete in Christ, robed in His righteousness and perfection.

Last Day Events***Sabbath, August 17th, 2024******Last Day Events, Chapter 8, pp. 240*****“The Loud Cry”****--****“The Seal of God and the Mark of the Beast”****August 17th****Influence of the Printed Page**

Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

Acts 2:47

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.—*Evangelism*, p. 693 (1885).

The results of the circulation of this book [The Great Controversy] are not to be judged by what now appears. By reading it some souls will be aroused and will have courage to unite themselves at once with those who keep the commandments of God. But a much larger number who read it will not take their position until they see the very events taking place that are foretold in it. The fulfillment of some of the predictions will inspire faith that others also will come to pass, and when the earth is lightened with the glory of the Lord in the closing work, many souls will take their position on the commandments of God as the result of this agency.—*Colporteur Ministries*, p. 128, 129 (1890).

In a large degree through our publishing houses is to be accomplished the work of that other angel who comes down from heaven with great power and who lightens the earth with his glory. [see Revelation 18:1].—*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 7, p. 140 (1902).

*Daily Scripture**Sabbath, August 17th, 2024***2nd Samuel Chapter 18****Absalom Killed**

- 2Sa 18:1 And David numbered the people that *were* with him, and set captains of thousands and captains of hundreds over them.
- 2Sa 18:2 And David sent forth a third part of the people under the hand of Joab, and a third part under the hand of Abishai the son of Zeruiah, Joab's brother, and a third part under the hand of Ittai the Gittite. And the king said unto the people, I will surely go forth with you myself also.
- 2Sa 18:3 But the people answered, Thou shalt not go forth: for if we flee away, they will not care for us; neither if half of us die, will they care for us: but now *thou art* worth ten thousand of us: therefore now *it is* better that thou succour us out of the city.
- 2Sa 18:4 And the king said unto them, What seems you best I will do. And the king stood by the gate side, and all the people came out by hundreds and by thousands.
- 2Sa 18:5 And the king commanded Joab and Abishai and Ittai, saying, *Deal* gently for my sake with the young man, *even* with Absalom. And all the people heard when the king gave all the captains charge concerning Absalom.
- 2Sa 18:6 So the people went out into the field against Israel: and the battle was in the wood of Ephraim;
- 2Sa 18:7 Where the people of Israel were slain before the servants of David, and there was there a great slaughter that day of twenty thousand *men*.
- 2Sa 18:8 For the battle was there scattered over the face of all the country: and the wood devoured more people that day than the sword devoured.
- 2Sa 18:9 And Absalom met the servants of David. And Absalom rode upon a mule, and the mule went under the thick boughs of a great oak, and his head caught hold of the oak, and he was taken up between the heaven and the earth; and the mule that *was* under him went away.
- 2Sa 18:10 And a certain man saw *it*, and told Joab, and said, Behold, I saw Absalom hanged in an oak.
- 2Sa 18:11 And Joab said unto the man that told him, And, behold, thou saw *him*, and why didst thou not smite him there to the ground? and I would have given thee ten *shekels* of silver, and a girdle.
- 2Sa 18:12 And the man said unto Joab, Though I should receive a thousand *shekels* of silver in mine hand, *yet* would I not put forth mine hand against the king's son: for in our hearing the king charged thee and Abishai and Ittai, saying, Beware that none *touch* the young man Absalom.
- 2Sa 18:13 Otherwise I should have wrought falsehood against mine own life: for there is no matter hid from the king, and thou thyself would have set thyself against *me*.
- 2Sa 18:14 Then said Joab, I may not tarry thus with thee. And he took three darts in his hand, and thrust them through the heart of Absalom, while he *was* yet alive in the midst of the oak.
- 2Sa 18:15 And ten young men that bare Joab's armour compassed about and smote Absalom, and slew him.
- 2Sa 18:16 And Joab blew the trumpet, and the people returned from pursuing after Israel: for Joab held back the people.
- 2Sa 18:17 And they took Absalom, and cast him into a great pit in the wood, and laid a very great heap of stones upon him: and all Israel fled everyone to his tent.
- 2Sa 18:18 Now Absalom in his lifetime had taken and reared up for himself a pillar, which *is* in the king's dale: for he said, I have no son to keep my name in remembrance: and he called the pillar after his own name: and it is called unto this day, Absalom's place.

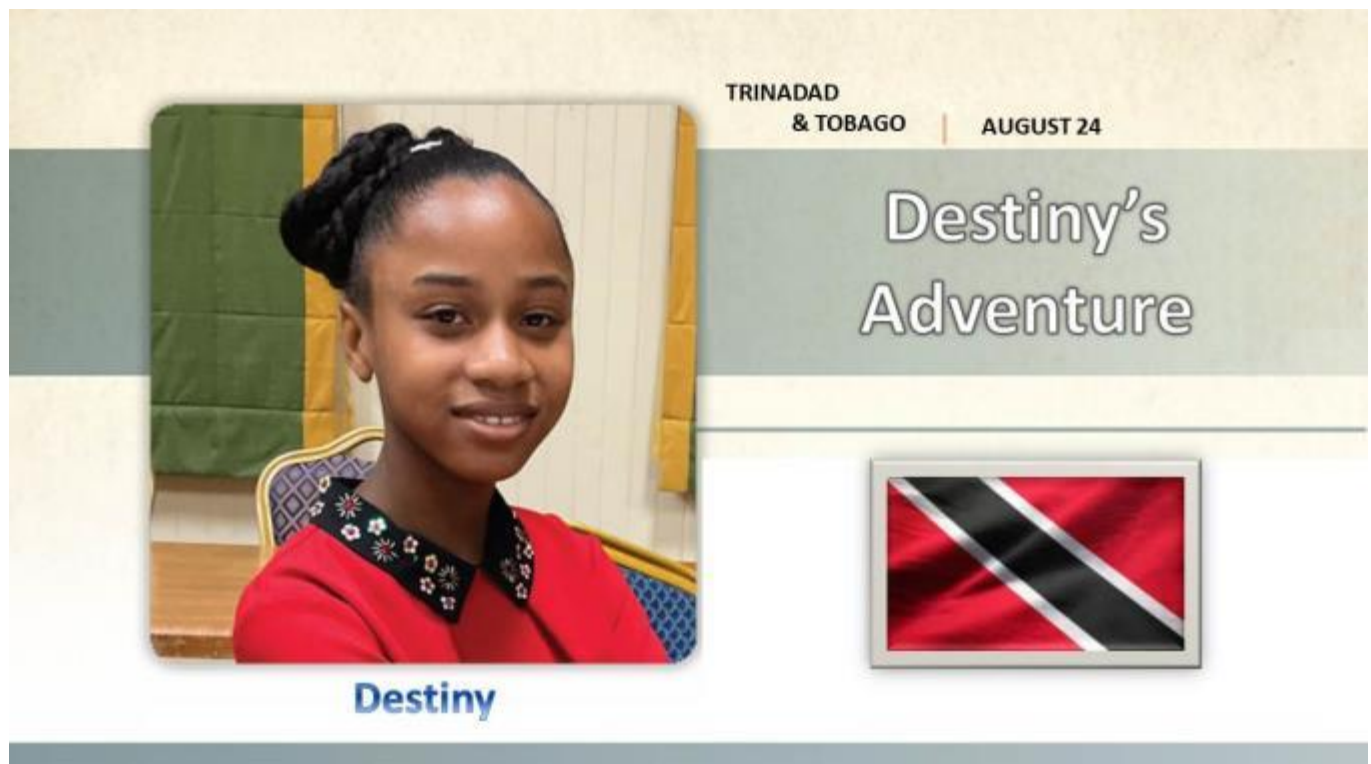
David Hears of Absalom's Death

- 2Sa 18:19 Then said Ahimaaz the son of Zadok, Let me now run, and bear the king tidings, how that the LORD hath avenged him of his enemies.
- 2Sa 18:20 And Joab said unto him, Thou shalt not bear tidings this day, but thou shalt bear tidings another day: but this day thou shalt bear no tidings, because the king's son is dead.

- 2Sa 18:21 Then said Joab to Cush, Go tell the king what thou hast seen. And Cush bowed himself unto Joab, and ran.
- 2Sa 18:22 Then said Ahimaaz the son of Zadok yet again to Joab, But howsoever, let me, I pray thee, also run after Cush. And Joab said, Wherefore wilt thou run, my son, seeing that thou hast no tidings ready?
- 2Sa 18:23 But howsoever, *said he*, let me run. And he said unto him, Run. Then Ahimaaz ran by the way of the plain, and overran Cush.
- 2Sa 18:24 And David sat between the two gates: and the watchman went up to the roof over the gate unto the wall, and lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold a man running alone.
- 2Sa 18:25 And the watchman cried, and told the king. And the king said, If he *be* alone, *there is* tidings in his mouth. And he came apace, and drew near.
- 2Sa 18:26 And the watchman saw another man running: and the watchman called unto the porter, and said, Behold *another* man running alone. And the king said, He also brings tidings.
- 2Sa 18:27 And the watchman said, Me thinks the running of the foremost is like the running of Ahimaaz the son of Zadok. And the king said, He *is* a good man, and cometh with good tidings.
- 2Sa 18:28 And Ahimaaz called, and said unto the king, All is well. And he fell down to the earth upon his face before the king, and said, Blessed *be* the LORD thy God, which hath delivered up the men that lifted up their hand against my lord the king.
- 2Sa 18:29 And the king said, Is the young man Absalom safe? And Ahimaaz answered, When Joab sent the king's servant, and *me* thy servant, I saw a great tumult, but I knew not what *it was*.
- 2Sa 18:30 And the king said *unto him*, Turn aside, *and* stand here. And he turned aside, and stood still.

David's Grief

- 2Sa 18:31 And, behold, Cush came; and Cush said, Tidings, my lord the king: for the LORD hath avenged thee this day of all them that rose up against thee.
- 2Sa 18:32 And the king said unto Cush, Is the young man Absalom safe? And Cush answered, The enemies of my lord the king, and all that rise against thee to do *thee* hurt, be as *that* young man *is*.
- 2Sa 18:33 And the king was much moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept: and as he went, thus he said, O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! would God I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son!

*Children's Mission Story**Sabbath, August 17th, 2024*

In a poor neighbourhood in Trinidad and Tobago lives a girl named Destiny. She is a bright girl with a heart full of curiosity and a spirit eager for adventure. She has a special story that started when she was just a little kid.

You see, when Destiny was only 2 years old, she lived with her great-grandmother, auntie, uncle, and two brothers. Her mother had to go away for a while because of some family problems. The family was very poor.

One day, Destiny heard her two brothers talking about Adventurers, a club where children could learn about Jesus and participate in fun activities. Destiny's heart fluttered with curiosity. She was bored at home and longed for new adventures.

Destiny asked her great-grandmother if she could go with her brothers to the club. But her great-grandmother said she was too little.

"No, sweetie, you're a bit young for that," her great-grandmother said.

Destiny put down her head and looked sad. It seemed like her dreams for adventure were over.

But then, on a warm Sunday evening, Destiny and her great-grandmother were coming back from the store when they saw Auntie Onessa, the leader of the Adventurer club. She was walking home with kids who had just been to the club meeting at her house.

Auntie Onessa noticed Destiny and talked to her great-grandmother.

“What’s her name?” she asked.

“Destiny,” her great-grandmother answered.

With a kind smile, Auntie Onessa turned to Destiny and asked, “Would you like to join our club?”

Destiny’s heart raced with excitement, and she nodded eagerly.

She looked to her great-grandmother to see what she would say.

Her great-grandmother smiled.

“Sure, you can go,” she said.

And that’s when Destiny’s new adventure began. Destiny joined the Eager Beaver class, which met every Sunday at Auntie Onessa’s house.

At the first meeting, she learned the Adventurer pledge and law. With enthusiasm, she declared, “Because Jesus loves me, I will always do my best!”

When she got home that evening, she happily told her great-grandmother, “I’m not bored anymore!”

As Destiny kept going to the club meetings, she began to feel like she belonged to a big family. Auntie Onessa became like a mother to her, teaching her stories from the Bible.

At first, Destiny didn’t know many Bible stories, but she wanted to learn. Slowly but surely, she discovered the stories of Noah and the Ark, Jonah and the big fish, and many more. Her favourite story was the story of Esther.

Destiny loved spending time with Auntie Onessa. She enjoyed the Adventurer meetings so much that she didn’t want to leave. After her brothers went home, she began staying at Auntie Onessa’s house for family worship. Then she spent weekends and even weekdays at Auntie Onessa’s house. She went to church with Auntie Onessa on Sabbaths, and she even sang special music in church. Her great-grandmother was happy that Auntie Onessa was taking good care of her.

The day came when Auntie Onessa gave Destiny a room to call her own. Destiny moved in with Auntie Onessa. She had a new home.

But Destiny’s adventure didn’t end there. She decided to be baptized on her 12th birthday.

Everyone in the neighbourhood has seen how Destiny’s life has changed after she got to know God through Auntie Onessa and the Adventurer club. They are so happy for her, and they want to know God, too!

And so, Destiny went from a little girl with a longing heart to a bright light in her community, inspiring others with her journey.

Part of a 2018 Thirteenth Sabbath Offering went to build a church at the University of the Southern Caribbean, near where Destiny lives. Thank you for your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering that helps teach people about God in Trinidad and Tobago and around the world.

By Andrew McChesney

Sunday – August 18th

1. How did Ezekiel express the process whereby we come into covenant with God?

➤ **Ezekiel 37:23 —**

NOTE : Was Christ's sacrifice calculated to change the nature of sin, and thus save man in his sin, or change the nature of man and thus save him by separating him from his sin? It is essential that this issue be clarified. This is not an idle discussion, 'vain jangling' or a matter of indifference. We are dealing with the momentous questions of sin and redemption, on which hinges the eternal destiny of man. On such weighty matters there can be no agreement to differ. We should give earnest attention to this matter, lest souls for whom our Lord died be deceived and lost eternally. 'Sin is deadly. It must therefore be destroyed, or it will destroy. Any remedy that does not take primal account of sin, and aim at its absolute abolition, is insufficient, if not spurious.' — *Lowrey*.

2. What does God promise to do about the sins we have already committed?

➤ **Isaiah 1:18 —**

NOTE : 'Look to Him from whom all virtue comes. No one can make himself better, but we are to come to Jesus as we are, earnestly desiring to be cleansed from every spot and stain of sin, and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. By living faith we must lay hold of His promise, for He has said, "Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."' — *Reflecting Christ, page 213*.

3. Heaven's Hotline

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Last Day Events***Sunday, August 18th, 2024******Last Day Events, Chapter 8, pp. 241*****“The Loud Cry”**

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“The Seal of God and the Mark of the Beast”**August 18th****Only Two Classes****And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.****Matthew 25:32-33**

There can be only two classes. Each party is distinctly stamped, either with the seal of the living God, or with the mark of the beast or his image.—*Review and Herald January 30, 1900.*

In the great conflict between faith and unbelief the whole Christian world will be involved. All will take sides. Some apparently may not engage in the conflict on either side. They may not appear to take sides against the truth, but they will not come out boldly for Christ through fear of losing property or suffering reproach. All such are numbered with the enemies of Christ. —*Review and Herald February 7, 1893.*

As we near the close of time the demarcation between the children of light and the children of darkness will be more and more decided. They will be more and more at variance. This difference is expressed in the words of Christ, "*born again*" [John 3:3]—created anew in Christ, dead to the world, and alive unto God. These are the walls of separation that divide the heavenly from the earthly and describe the difference between those who belong to the world and those who are chosen out of it, who are elect, precious in the sight of God.—*Special Testimony to the Battle Creek Church (P. 155) 3 (1882).*

Daily Scripture**Sunday, August 18th, 2024****2nd Samuel Chapter 19****Joab Rebukes David**

- 2Sa 19:1 And it was told Joab, Behold, the king weeps and mourns for Absalom.
- 2Sa 19:2 And the victory that day was *turned* into mourning unto all the people: for the people heard say that day how the king was grieved for his son.
- 2Sa 19:3 And the people got them by stealth that day into the city, as people being ashamed steal away when they flee in battle.
- 2Sa 19:4 But the king covered his face, and the king cried with a loud voice, O my son Absalom, O Absalom, my son, my son!
- 2Sa 19:5 And Joab came into the house to the king, and said, Thou hast shamed this day the faces of all thy servants, which this day have saved thy life, and the lives of thy sons and of thy daughters, and the lives of thy wives, and the lives of thy concubines;
- 2Sa 19:6 In that thou love thine enemies, and hate thy friends. For thou hast declared this day, that thou regard neither princes nor servants: for this day I perceive, that if Absalom had lived, and all we had died this day, then it had pleased thee well.
- 2Sa 19:7 Now therefore arise, go forth, and speak comfortably unto thy servants: for I swear by the LORD, if thou go not forth, there will not tarry one with thee this night: and that will be worse unto thee than all the evil that befell thee from thy youth until now.

David Returns to Jerusalem

- 2Sa 19:8 Then the king arose, and sat in the gate. And they told unto all the people, saying, Behold, the king doth sit in the gate. And all the people came before the king: for Israel had fled every man to his tent.
- 2Sa 19:9 And all the people were at strife throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, The king saved us out of the hand of our enemies, and he delivered us out of the hand of the Philistines; and now he is fled out of the land for Absalom.
- 2Sa 19:10 And Absalom, whom we anointed over us, is dead in battle. Now therefore why speak ye not a word of bringing the king back?
- 2Sa 19:11 And king David sent to Zadok and to Abiathar the priests, saying, Speak unto the elders of Judah, saying, Why are ye the last to bring the king back to his house? seeing the speech of all Israel is come to the king, *even* to his house.
- 2Sa 19:12 Ye *are* my brethren, ye *are* my bones and my flesh: wherefore then are ye the last to bring back the king?
- 2Sa 19:13 And you say to Amasa, *Art* thou not of my bone, and of my flesh? God do so to me, and more also, if thou be not captain of the host before me continually in the room of Joab.
- 2Sa 19:14 And he bowed the heart of all the men of Judah, even as *the heart of* one man; so that they sent *this word* unto the king, Return thou, and all thy servants.
- 2Sa 19:15 So the king returned, and came to Jordan. And Judah came to Gilgal, to go to meet the king, to conduct the king over Jordan.

David Pardons His Enemies

- 2Sa 19:16 And Shimei the son of Gera, a Benjamite, which *was* of Bahurim, hasted and came down with the men of Judah to meet king David.
- 2Sa 19:17 And *there were* a thousand men of Benjamin with him, and Ziba the servant of the house of Saul, and his fifteen sons and his twenty servants with him; and they went over Jordan before the king.
- 2Sa 19:18 And there went over a ferry boat to carry over the king's household, and to do what he thought good. And Shimei the son of Gera fell down before the king, as he was come over Jordan;

- 2Sa 19:19 And said unto the king, Let not my lord impute iniquity unto me, neither do thou remember that which thy servant did perversely the day that my lord the king went out of Jerusalem, that the king should take it to his heart.
- 2Sa 19:20 For thy servant doth know that I have sinned: therefore, behold, I am come the first this day of all the house of Joseph to go down to meet my lord the king.
- 2Sa 19:21 But Abishai the son of Zeruiah answered and said, Shall not Shimei be put to death for this, because he cursed the LORD'S anointed?
- 2Sa 19:22 And David said, What have I to do with you, ye sons of Zeruiah, that ye should this day be adversaries unto me? shall there any man be put to death this day in Israel? for do not I know that I *am* this day king over Israel?
- 2Sa 19:23 Therefore the king said unto Shimei, Thou shalt not die. And the king swore unto him.
- 2Sa 19:24 And Mephibosheth the son of Saul came down to meet the king, and had neither dressed his feet, nor trimmed his beard, nor washed his clothes, from the day the king departed until the day he came *again* in peace.
- 2Sa 19:25 And it came to pass, when he was come to Jerusalem to meet the king, that the king said unto him, Wherefore went not thou with me, Mephibosheth?
- 2Sa 19:26 And he answered, My lord, O king, my servant deceived me: for thy servant said, I will saddle me an ass, that I may ride thereon, and go to the king; because thy servant *is* lame.
- 2Sa 19:27 And he hath slandered thy servant unto my lord the king; but my lord the king *is* as an angel of God: do therefore *what is* good in thine eyes.
- 2Sa 19:28 For all *of* my father's house were but dead men before my lord the king: yet didst thou set thy servant among them that did eat at thine own table. What right therefore have I yet to cry any more unto the king?
- 2Sa 19:29 And the king said unto him, Why speak thou any more of thy matters? I have said, Thou and Ziba divide the land.
- 2Sa 19:30 And Mephibosheth said unto the king, Yea, let him take all, forasmuch as my lord the king is come again in peace unto his own house.
- 2Sa 19:31 And Barzillai the Gileadite came down from Rogelim, and went over Jordan with the king, to conduct him over Jordan.
- 2Sa 19:32 Now Barzillai was a very aged man, *even* fourscore years old: and he had provided the king of sustenance while he lay at Mahanaim; for he *was* a very great man.
- 2Sa 19:33 And the king said unto Barzillai, Come thou over with me, and I will feed thee with me in Jerusalem.
- 2Sa 19:34 And Barzillai said unto the king, How long have I to live, that I should go up with the king unto Jerusalem?
- 2Sa 19:35 I *am* this day fourscore years old: *and* can I discern between good and evil? can thy servant taste what I eat or what I drink? can I hear any more the voice of singing men and singing women? wherefore then should thy servant be yet a burden unto my lord the king?
- 2Sa 19:36 Thy servant will go a little way over Jordan with the king: and why should the king recompense it me with such a reward?
- 2Sa 19:37 Let thy servant, I pray thee, turn back again, that I may die in mine own city, *and be buried* by the grave of my father and of my mother. But behold thy servant Chimham; let him go over with my lord the king; and do to him what shall seem good unto thee.
- 2Sa 19:38 And the king answered, Chimham shall go over with me, and I will do to him that which shall seem good unto thee: and whatsoever thou shalt require of me, *that* will I do for thee.
- 2Sa 19:39 And all the people went over Jordan. And when the king was come over, the king kissed Barzillai, and blessed him; and he returned unto his own place.
- 2Sa 19:40 Then the king went on to Gilgal, and Chimham went on with him: and all the people of Judah conducted the king, and also half the people of Israel.
- 2Sa 19:41 And, behold, all the men of Israel came to the king, and said unto the king, Why have our brethren the men of Judah stolen thee away, and have brought the king, and his household, and all David's men with him, over Jordan?

- 2Sa 19:42 And all the men of Judah answered the men of Israel, Because the king *is* near of kin to us: wherefore then be ye angry for this matter? have we eaten at all of the king's *cost*? or hath he given us any gift?
- 2Sa 19:43 And the men of Israel answered the men of Judah, and said, We have ten parts in the king, and we have also more *right* in David than ye: why then did ye despise us, that our advice should not be first had in bringing back our king? And the words of the men of Judah were fiercer than the words of the men of Israel.

Monday – August 19th

1. If our sins are to be made white as snow, what is required of us?

➤ **1 John 1:9 —**

NOTE : ‘God requires that we confess our sins and humble our hearts before Him; but at the same time we should have confidence in Him as a tender Father, who will not forsake those who put their trust in Him... God does not give us up because of our sins. We may make mistakes and grieve His Spirit, but when we repent and come to Him with contrite hearts, He will not turn us away. There are hindrances to be removed. Wrong feelings have been cherished, and there have been pride, self-sufficiency, impatience, and murmurings. All these separate us from God. Sins must be confessed; there must be a deeper work of grace in the heart.’ — *Faith & Works*, page 35.

2. If our sins are to be made white as snow, what change in our conduct will God expect to result?

➤ **Isaiah 1:16-17 —**

NOTE : ‘If you see your sinfulness, do not wait to make yourself better. How many there are who think they are not good enough to come to Christ. Do you expect to become better through your own efforts? There is help for us only in God. We must not wait for stronger persuasions, for better opportunities, or for holier tempers. We can do nothing for ourselves. We must come to Christ just as we are. Yield yourself to Christ without delay; He alone, by the power of His grace, can redeem you from ruin. He alone can bring your moral and mental powers into a state of health. Your heart may be warm with the love of God; your understanding, clear and mature; your conscience, illuminated, quick, and pure; your will, upright and sanctified, subject to the control of the Spirit of God. You can make yourself what you choose. If you will now face right about, cease to do evil and learn to do well, then you will be happy indeed; you will be successful in the battles of life, and rise to glory and honour in the better life than this.’ — *The Faith I Live By*, page 133.

3. Heaven’s Hotline

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Last Day Events

Monday, August 19th, 2024

Last Day Events, Chapter 8, pp. 242

“The Loud Cry”

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“The Seal of God and the Mark of the Beast”

August 19th

Family Members Are Separated

The father shall be divided against the son, and the son against the father; the mother against the daughter, and the daughter against the mother; the mother in law against her daughter in law, and the daughter in law against her mother in law.

Luke 12:53

Those who have been members of the same family are separated. A mark is placed upon the righteous. "*They shall be Mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up My jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spares his own son that serves him.*" [Malachi 3:17] Those who have been obedient to God's commandments will unite with the company of the saints in light. They shall enter in through the gates into the city, and have right to the tree of life.

"*The one shall be taken.*" [Matthew 24:40] His name shall stand in the book of life, while those with whom he associated shall have the mark of eternal separation from God.—*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 234, 235 (1895).

*Daily Scripture**Monday, August 19th, 2024***2nd Samuel Chapter 20****The Rebellion of Sheba**

- 2Sa 20:1 And there happened to be there a man of Belial, whose name *was* Sheba, the son of Bichri, a Benjamite: and he blew a trumpet, and said, We have no part in David, neither have we inheritance in the son of Jesse: every man to his tents, O Israel.
- 2Sa 20:2 So every man of Israel went up from after David, *and* followed Sheba the son of Bichri: but the men of Judah clave unto their king, from Jordan even to Jerusalem.
- 2Sa 20:3 And David came to his house at Jerusalem; and the king took the ten women *his* concubines, whom he had left to keep the house, and put them in ward, and fed them, but went not in unto them. So they were shut up unto the day of their death, living in widowhood.
- 2Sa 20:4 Then said the king to Amasa, Assemble me the men of Judah within three days, and be thou here present.
- 2Sa 20:5 So Amasa went to assemble *the men of* Judah: but he tarried longer than the set time which he had appointed him.
- 2Sa 20:6 And David said to Abishai, Now shall Sheba the son of Bichri do us more harm than *did* Absalom: take thou thy lord's servants, and pursue after him, lest he get him fenced cities, and escape us.
- 2Sa 20:7 And there went out after him Joab's men, and the Cherethites, and the Pelethites, and all the mighty men: and they went out of Jerusalem, to pursue after Sheba the son of Bichri.
- 2Sa 20:8 When they *were* at the great stone which *is* in Gibeon, Amasa went before them. And Joab's garment that he had put on was girded unto him, and upon it a girdle *with* a sword fastened upon his loins in the sheath thereof; and as he went forth it fell out.
- 2Sa 20:9 And Joab said to Amasa, *Art* thou in health, my brother? And Joab took Amasa by the beard with the right hand to kiss him.
- 2Sa 20:10 But Amasa took no heed to the sword that *was* in Joab's hand: so he smote him therewith in the fifth *rib*, and shed out his bowels to the ground, and struck him not again; and he died. So Joab and Abishai his brother pursued after Sheba the son of Bichri.
- 2Sa 20:11 And one of Joab's men stood by him, and said, He that favours Joab, and he that *is* for David, *let him go* after Joab.
- 2Sa 20:12 And Amasa wallowed in blood in the midst of the highway. And when the man saw that all the people stood still, he removed Amasa out of the highway into the field, and cast a cloth upon him, when he saw that every one that came by him stood still.
- 2Sa 20:13 When he was removed out of the highway, all the people went on after Joab, to pursue after Sheba the son of Bichri.
- 2Sa 20:14 And he went through all the tribes of Israel unto Abel, and to Bethmaachah, and all the Berites: and they were gathered together, and went also after him.
- 2Sa 20:15 And they came and besieged him in Abel of Bethmaachah, and they cast up a bank against the city, and it stood in the trench: and all the people that *were* with Joab battered the wall, to throw it down.
- 2Sa 20:16 Then cried a wise woman out of the city, Hear, hear; say, I pray you, unto Joab, Come near hither, that I may speak with thee.
- 2Sa 20:17 And when he was come near unto her, the woman said, *Art* thou Joab? And he answered, *I am he*. Then she said unto him, Hear the words of thine handmaid. And he answered, I do hear.
- 2Sa 20:18 Then she spake, saying, They were wont to speak in old time, saying, They shall surely ask *counsel* at Abel: and so they ended *the matter*.
- 2Sa 20:19 *I am one of them that are peaceable and faithful* in Israel: thou seeks to destroy a city and a mother in Israel: why wilt thou swallow up the inheritance of the LORD?
- 2Sa 20:20 And Joab answered and said, Far be it, far be it from me, that I should swallow up or destroy.

- 2Sa 20:21 The matter *is* not so: but a man of mount Ephraim, Sheba the son of Bichri by name, hath lifted up his hand against the king, *even* against David: deliver him only, and I will depart from the city. And the woman said unto Joab, Behold, his head shall be thrown to thee over the wall.
- 2Sa 20:22 Then the woman went unto all the people in her wisdom. And they cut off the head of Sheba the son of Bichri, and cast *it* out to Joab. And he blew a trumpet, and they retired from the city, every man to his tent. And Joab returned to Jerusalem unto the king.
- 2Sa 20:23 Now Joab *was* over all the host of Israel: and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada *was* over the Cherethites and over the Pelethites:
- 2Sa 20:24 And Adoram *was* over the tribute: and Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud *was* recorder:
- 2Sa 20:25 And Sheva *was* scribe: and Zadok and Abiathar *were* the priests:
- 2Sa 20:26 And Ira also the Jairite was a chief ruler about David.

Tuesday – August 20th

1. How does God emphasise the need for the sinner to turn away from his sins if he wishes God to have mercy on him?

➤ **Isaiah 55:7** —

NOTE : ‘Repentance includes sorrow for sin, and a turning away from it. We shall not renounce sin unless we see its sinfulness; until we turn away from it in heart, there will be no real change in the life. There are many who fail to understand the true nature of repentance. Multitudes sorrow that they have sinned, and even make an outward reformation, because they fear that their wrongdoing will bring suffering upon themselves. But this is not repentance in the Bible sense. They lament the suffering, rather than the sin.’ — *Conflict & Courage*, page 63.

2. What assurance do we have that the power of God can preserve us from falling into sin?

➤ **Jude 1:24** —

NOTE : The words ‘is able’ mean ‘has the power.’ ‘Salvation is secured by a mutual contract. “As many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God.” Will you, with all your heart and mind and soul, enter into this contract? Look to your Redeemer in faith and loving trust, for power and wisdom to do the work of character building. He sits as a refiner, to purify the gold and silver from all dross. Then look continually unto Him, and no cheap or worthless material will be brought into the structure of your character building. By faith you may accept the merits of the blood of the Son of God, which He has shed that the sinner might not perish, but have everlasting life. God has laid upon Him all power, that He may impart help to everyone who will break with Satan and acknowledge Christ as his only hope. When you are ready to co-operate with Him who can keep you from falling, your resolutions will be of some value. Christ, the chief Healer, will make you whole. He works mightily with everyone who is in earnest. He will give strength and victory. All the mean and wicked traits of character can be taken away by the One who has purchased you as His property.’ — *In Heavenly Places*, page 19. *n.b. A contract is a covenant.*

3. Heaven’s Hotline

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Last Day Events***Tuesday, August 20th, 2024******Last Day Events, Chapter 8, pp. 243******“The Loud Cry”***

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“The Seal of God and the Mark of the Beast”**August 20th****Judged by the Light We Have Received**

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.

Isaiah 9:2

Many who have not had the privileges that we have had will go into heaven before those who have had great light and who have not walked in it. Many have lived up to the best light they have had and will be judged accordingly.—*Letter 36, 1895.*

All must wait for the appointed time, until the warning shall have gone to all parts of the world, until sufficient light and evidence have been given to every soul. Some will have less light than others, but each one will be judged according to the light received.—*Manuscript 77, 1899.*

We have been given great light in regard to God's law. This law is the standard of character. To it man is now required to conform, and by it he will be judged in the last great day. In that day men will be dealt with according to the light they have received.—*Gospel Herald, January, 1901 (Supp.).*

Those who have had great light and have disregarded it stand in a worse position than those who have not been given so many advantages. They exalt themselves but not the Lord. The punishment inflicted on human beings will in every case be proportionate to the dishonour they have brought on God.—*Manuscript Release 8, p. 168 (1901).*

Everyone is to have sufficient light to make his decision intelligently.—*The Great Controversy, p. 605 (1911).*

Daily Scripture**Tuesday, August 20th, 2024****2nd Samuel Chapter 21****David Avenges the Gibeonites**

- 2Sa 21:1 Then there was a famine in the days of David three years, year after year; and David enquired of the LORD. And the LORD answered, *It is* for Saul, and for *his* bloody house, because he slew the Gibeonites.
- 2Sa 21:2 And the king called the Gibeonites, and said unto them; (now the Gibeonites *were* not of the children of Israel, but of the remnant of the Amorites; and the children of Israel had sworn unto them: and Saul sought to slay them in his zeal to the children of Israel and Judah.)
- 2Sa 21:3 Wherefore David said unto the Gibeonites, What shall I do for you? and wherewith shall I make the atonement, that ye may bless the inheritance of the LORD?
- 2Sa 21:4 And the Gibeonites said unto him, We will have no silver nor gold of Saul, nor of his house; neither for us shalt thou kill any man in Israel. And he said, What ye shall say, *that* will I do for you.
- 2Sa 21:5 And they answered the king, The man that consumed us, and that devised against us *that* we should be destroyed from remaining in any of the coasts of Israel,
- 2Sa 21:6 Let seven men of his sons be delivered unto us, and we will hang them up unto the LORD in Gibeah of Saul, *whom* the LORD did choose. And the king said, I will give *them*.
- 2Sa 21:7 But the king spared Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan the son of Saul, because of the LORD'S oath that *was* between them, between David and Jonathan the son of Saul.
- 2Sa 21:8 But the king took the two sons of Rizpah the daughter of Aiah, whom she bare unto Saul, Armoni and Mephibosheth; and the five sons of Michal the daughter of Saul, whom she brought up for Adriel the son of Barzillai the Meholathite:
- 2Sa 21:9 And he delivered them into the hands of the Gibeonites, and they hanged them in the hill before the LORD: and they fell *all* seven together, and were put to death in the days of harvest, in the first *days*, in the beginning of barley harvest.
- 2Sa 21:10 And Rizpah the daughter of Aiah took sackcloth, and spread it for her upon the rock, from the beginning of harvest until water dropped upon them out of heaven, and suffered neither the birds of the air to rest on them by day, nor the beasts of the field by night.
- 2Sa 21:11 And it was told David what Rizpah the daughter of Aiah, the concubine of Saul, had done.
- 2Sa 21:12 And David went and took the bones of Saul and the bones of Jonathan his son from the men of Jabeshgilead, which had stolen them from the street of Bethshan, where the Philistines had hanged them, when the Philistines had slain Saul in Gilboa:
- 2Sa 21:13 And he brought up from thence the bones of Saul and the bones of Jonathan his son; and they gathered the bones of them that were hanged.
- 2Sa 21:14 And the bones of Saul and Jonathan his son buried they in the country of Benjamin in Zelah, in the sepulchre of Kish his father: and they performed all that the king commanded. And after that God was entreated for the land.

War with the Philistines

- 2Sa 21:15 Moreover the Philistines had yet war again with Israel; and David went down, and his servants with him, and fought against the Philistines: and David waxed faint.
- 2Sa 21:16 And Ishbibenob, which *was* of the sons of the giant, the weight of whose spear *weighed* three hundred *shekels* of brass in weight, he being girded with a new *sword*, thought to have slain David.
- 2Sa 21:17 But Abishai the son of Zeruiah succoured him, and smote the Philistine, and killed him. Then the men of David sware unto him, saying, Thou shalt go no more out with us to battle, that thou quench not the light of Israel.
- 2Sa 21:18 And it came to pass after this, that there was again a battle with the Philistines at Gob: then Sibbechai the Hushathite slew Saph, which *was* of the sons of the giant.

- 2Sa 21:19 And there was again a battle in Gob with the Philistines, where Elhanan the son of Jaareoregim, a Bethlehemite, slew *the brother of* Goliath the Gittite, the staff of whose spear *was* like a weaver's beam.
- 2Sa 21:20 And there was yet a battle in Gath, where was a man of *great* stature, that had on every hand six fingers, and on every foot six toes, four and twenty in number; and he also was born to the giant.
- 2Sa 21:21 And when he defied Israel, Jonathan the son of Shimea the brother of David slew him.
- 2Sa 21:22 These four were born to the giant in Gath, and fell by the hand of David, and by the hand of his servants.

Wednesday – August 21st

1. How does Paul explain both the desire and power of Christ to help us in times of temptation?

➤ **Hebrews 2:18** —

NOTE : ‘In the daily life you will meet with sudden surprises, disappointments, and temptations. What saith the Word? “Resist the devil,” by firm reliance upon God, “and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you.” “Let him take hold of My strength, that he may make peace with Me; and he shall make peace with Me.” Look unto Jesus at all times and in all places, offering a silent prayer from a sincere heart that you may know how to do His will. Then when the enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard for you against the enemy. When you are almost ready to yield, to lose patience and self-control, to be hard and denunciatory, to find fault and accuse, this is the time for you to send to heaven the prayer, “Help me, O God, to resist temptation.”’
—*The Adventist Home*, page 214.

2. How does Paul explain what the power of Christ working within us can do?

➤ **Ephesians 3:20** —

NOTE : ‘The question is asked, “Is the Lord’s arm shortened that it cannot save? Is His ear heavy that He cannot hear?” No, He now works in the hearts of those who ask, who believe that God is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think. We must not be discouraged if Satan seeks to leaven the mind with subtle unbelief while we are engaged in prayer, and our hearts are impressed with the high standard of holiness to which we would attain. The enemy will suggest that the Lord will not keep us from sinning, and make us obedient to all His requirements. He will direct our mind to our past imperfections, to our sins, failures, and mistakes, and tell us we need not expect to come off conquerors at last. We are not to listen to the suggestions of the enemy, or think that our unaided efforts can save us, but we are to believe that Jesus does the work for us. At times when we have exercised a little faith, we have experienced a little help, and we have hoped to be victorious overcomers. But have we had faith that through Christ we should be able to overcome every temptation as He overcame? We have not generally exercised this quality of faith.’ —*Signs of the Times*, September 12, 1892.

3. Heaven’s Hotline

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Last Day Events

Wednesday, August 21st, 2024

Last Day Events, Chapter 8, pp. 244

“The Loud Cry”

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“The Seal of God and the Mark of the Beast”

August 21st

No Excuse for Wilful Blindness

Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.

Matthew 15:14

None will be condemned for not heeding light and knowledge that they never had, and they could not obtain. But many refuse to obey the truth that is presented to them by Christ's ambassadors, because they wish to conform to the world's standard, and the truth that has reached their understanding, the light that has shone in the soul, will condemn them in the judgment.—*SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 5, p. 1145 (1884).*

Those who have an opportunity to hear the truth and yet take no pains to hear or understand it, thinking that if they do not hear they will not be accountable, will be judged guilty before God the same as if they had heard and rejected. There will be no excuse for those who choose to go in error when they might understand what is truth. In His sufferings and death Jesus has made atonement for all sins of ignorance, but there is no provision made for wilful blindness.

We shall not be held accountable for the light that has not reached our perception, but for that which we have resisted and refused. A man could not apprehend the truth which had never been presented to him, and therefore could not be condemned for light he had never had. —*SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 5, p. 1145 (1893).*

Daily Scripture**Wednesday, August 21st, 2024****2nd Samuel Chapter 22****David's Song of Deliverance**

- 2Sa 22:1 And David spake unto the LORD the words of this song in the day *that* the LORD had delivered him out of the hand of all his enemies, and out of the hand of Saul:
- 2Sa 22:2 And he said, The LORD *is* my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer;
- 2Sa 22:3 The God of my rock; in him will I trust: *he is* my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge, my saviour; thou saved me from violence.
- 2Sa 22:4 I will call on the LORD, *who is* worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies.
- 2Sa 22:5 When the waves of death compassed me, the floods of ungodly men made me afraid;
- 2Sa 22:6 The sorrows of hell compassed me about; the snares of death prevented me;
- 2Sa 22:7 In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried to my God: and he did hear my voice out of his temple, and my cry *did enter* into his ears.
- 2Sa 22:8 Then the earth shook and trembled; the foundations of heaven moved and shook, because he was wroth.
- 2Sa 22:9 There went up a smoke out of his nostrils, and fire out of his mouth devoured: coals were kindled by it.
- 2Sa 22:10 He bowed the heavens also, and came down; and darkness *was* under his feet.
- 2Sa 22:11 And he rode upon a cherub, and did fly: and he was seen upon the wings of the wind.
- 2Sa 22:12 And he made darkness pavilions round about him, dark waters, *and* thick clouds of the skies.
- 2Sa 22:13 Through the brightness before him were coals of fire kindled.
- 2Sa 22:14 The LORD thundered from heaven, and the most High uttered his voice.
- 2Sa 22:15 And he sent out arrows, and scattered them; lightning, and discomfited them.
- 2Sa 22:16 And the channels of the sea appeared, the foundations of the world were discovered, at the rebuking of the LORD, at the blast of the breath of his nostrils.
- 2Sa 22:17 He sent from above, he took me; he drew me out of many waters;
- 2Sa 22:18 He delivered me from my strong enemy, *and* from them that hated me: for they were too strong for me.
- 2Sa 22:19 They prevented me in the day of my calamity: but the LORD was my stay.
- 2Sa 22:20 He brought me forth also into a large place: he delivered me, because he delighted in me.
- 2Sa 22:21 The LORD rewarded me according to my righteousness: according to the cleanness of my hands hath he recompensed me.
- 2Sa 22:22 For I have kept the ways of the LORD, and have not wickedly departed from my God.
- 2Sa 22:23 For all his judgments *were* before me: and *as for* his statutes, I did not depart from them.
- 2Sa 22:24 I was also upright before him, and have kept myself from mine iniquity.
- 2Sa 22:25 Therefore the LORD hath recompensed me according to my righteousness; according to my cleanness in his eye sight.
- 2Sa 22:26 With the merciful thou wilt shew thyself merciful, *and* with the upright man thou wilt shew thyself upright.
- 2Sa 22:27 With the pure thou wilt shew thyself pure; and with the froward thou wilt shew thyself unsavoury.
- 2Sa 22:28 And the afflicted people thou wilt save: but thine eyes *are* upon the haughty, *that* thou may bring *them* down.
- 2Sa 22:29 For thou *art* my lamp, O LORD: and the LORD will lighten my darkness.
- 2Sa 22:30 For by thee I have run through a troop: by my God have I leaped over a wall.
- 2Sa 22:31 *As for* God, his way *is* perfect; the word of the LORD *is* tried: he *is* a buckler to all them that trust in him.

- 2Sa 22:32 For who *is* God, save the LORD? and who *is* a rock, save our God?
- 2Sa 22:33 God *is* my strength *and* power: and he makes my way perfect.
- 2Sa 22:34 He makes my feet like hinds' *feet*: and sets me upon my high places.
- 2Sa 22:35 He teaches my hands to war; so that a bow of steel is broken by mine arms.
- 2Sa 22:36 Thou hast also given me the shield of thy salvation: and thy gentleness hath made me great.
- 2Sa 22:37 Thou hast enlarged my steps under me; so that my feet did not slip.
- 2Sa 22:38 I have pursued mine enemies, and destroyed them; and turned not again until I had consumed them.
- 2Sa 22:39 And I have consumed them, and wounded them, that they could not arise: yea, they are fallen under my feet.
- 2Sa 22:40 For thou hast girded me with strength to battle: them that rose up against me hast thou subdued under me.
- 2Sa 22:41 Thou hast also given me the necks of mine enemies, that I might destroy them that hate me.
- 2Sa 22:42 They looked, but *there was* none to save; *even* unto the LORD, but he answered them not.
- 2Sa 22:43 Then did I beat them as small as the dust of the earth, I did stamp them as the mire of the street, *and* did spread them abroad.
- 2Sa 22:44 Thou also hast delivered me from the strivings of my people, thou hast kept me *to be* head of the heathen: a people *which* I knew not shall serve me.
- 2Sa 22:45 Strangers shall submit themselves unto me: as soon as they hear, they shall be obedient unto me.
- 2Sa 22:46 Strangers shall fade away, and they shall be afraid out of their close places.
- 2Sa 22:47 The LORD lives; and blessed *be* my rock; and exalted be the God of the rock of my salvation.
- 2Sa 22:48 It *is* God that avenges me, and that brings down the people under me,
- 2Sa 22:49 And that brings me forth from mine enemies: thou also hast lifted me up on high above them that rose up against me: thou hast delivered me from the violent man.
- 2Sa 22:50 Therefore I will give thanks unto thee, O LORD, among the heathen, and I will sing praises unto thy name.
- 2Sa 22:51 *He is* the tower of salvation for his king: and shows mercy to his anointed, unto David, and to his seed for evermore.

Thursday – August 22nd

1. How does Paul describe the change that takes place in the one who is born again?

- 2 Corinthians 5:17 —
- Galatians 6:15 —
- Ephesians 2:10 —

NOTE : ‘God’s sons and daughters must show they are of heavenly extraction. The great man in God’s sight is he who in the midst of crowds, of cares and financial pressure, keeps his soul unpolluted, unstained, without one blot of worldly pollution. Firmly relying upon God by prayer and faith, the soul will stand firm in moral independence, yet with perfect kindness, love, and goodness. The temptations of society are met and resisted, communion is maintained with God, and the communication between your soul and God enables you to transmit to others through your social relations the choicest blessings which Heaven has to bestow. Exact and impartial justice will be seen in all his dealings, but his duty does not end here. God requires more. He demands of you to love as Christ has loved souls. He demands of you compassion for the suffering, the erring, those who are subject to Satan’s temptations. He demands of you kindness, courtesy to even the unfortunate, a generous consideration of the feelings of others. You must so order your intercourse and deal with the world as to secure for yourself a calm, hallowed peace, while you leave a record behind of a godly example.’ —*Sons & Daughters of God*, page 271.

2. Heaven’s Hotline



Last Day Events***Thursday, August 22nd, 2024******Last Day Events, Chapter 8, pp. 245*****“The Loud Cry”****--****“The Seal of God and the Mark of the Beast”****August 22nd****The Importance of Practical Benevolence**

And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

Matthew 25:40

The decisions of the last day turn upon our practical benevolence. Christ acknowledges every act of beneficence as done to Himself.—*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 400 (1896).

When the nations are gathered before Him, there will be but two classes, and their eternal destiny will be determined by what they have done or have neglected to do for Him in the person of the poor and suffering. . . .

Among the heathen are those who worship God ignorantly, those to whom the light is never brought by human instrumentality, yet they will not perish. Though ignorant of the written law of God, they have heard His voice speaking to them in nature, and have done the things that the law required. Their works are evidence that the Holy Spirit has touched their hearts, and they are recognized as the children of God.

How surprised and gladdened will be the lowly among the nations, and among the heathen, to hear from the lips of the Saviour, "*Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me*"! [Matthew 25:40] How glad will be the heart of Infinite Love as His followers look up with surprise and joy at His words of approval!—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 637, 638 (1898).

Daily Scripture**Thursday, August 22nd, 2024****2nd Samuel Chapter 23****The Last Words of David**

- 2Sa 23:1 Now these *be* the last words of David. David the son of Jesse said, and the man *who was* raised up on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob, and the sweet psalmist of Israel, said,
- 2Sa 23:2 The Spirit of the LORD spake by me, and his word *was* in my tongue.
- 2Sa 23:3 The God of Israel said, the Rock of Israel spake to me, He that rules over men *must be* just, ruling in the fear of God.
- 2Sa 23:4 And *he shall be* as the light of the morning, *when* the sun rises, *even* a morning without clouds; *as* the tender grass *springing* out of the earth by clear shining after rain.
- 2Sa 23:5 Although my house *be* not so with God; yet he hath made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all *things*, and sure: for *this is* all my salvation, and all *my* desire, although he make *it* not to grow.
- 2Sa 23:6 But *the sons* of Belial *shall be* all of them as thorns thrust away, because they cannot be taken with hands:
- 2Sa 23:7 But the man *that* shall touch them must be fenced with iron and the staff of a spear; and they shall be utterly burned with fire in the *same* place.

David's Mighty Men

- 2Sa 23:8 These *be* the names of the mighty men whom David had: The Tachmonite that sat in the seat, chief among the captains; the same *was* Adino the Eznite: *he lift up his spear* against eight hundred, whom he slew at one time.
- 2Sa 23:9 And after him *was* Eleazar the son of Dodo the Ahohite, *one* of the three mighty men with David, when they defied the Philistines *that* were there gathered together to battle, and the men of Israel were gone away:
- 2Sa 23:10 He arose, and smote the Philistines until his hand was weary, and his hand clave unto the sword: and the LORD wrought a great victory that day; and the people returned after him only to spoil.
- 2Sa 23:11 And after him *was* Shammah the son of Agee the Hararite. And the Philistines were gathered together into a troop, where was a piece of ground full of lentils: and the people fled from the Philistines.
- 2Sa 23:12 But he stood in the midst of the ground, and defended it, and slew the Philistines: and the LORD wrought a great victory.
- 2Sa 23:13 And three of the thirty chief went down, and came to David in the harvest time unto the cave of Adullam: and the troop of the Philistines pitched in the valley of Rephaim.
- 2Sa 23:14 And David *was* then in an hold, and the garrison of the Philistines *was* then *in* Bethlehem.
- 2Sa 23:15 And David longed, and said, Oh that one would give me drink of the water of the well of Bethlehem, which *is* by the gate!
- 2Sa 23:16 And the three mighty men brake through the host of the Philistines, and drew water out of the well of Bethlehem, that *was* by the gate, and took *it*, and brought *it* to David: nevertheless he would not drink thereof, but poured it out unto the LORD.
- 2Sa 23:17 And he said, Be it far from me, O LORD, that I should do this: *is not this* the blood of the men that went in jeopardy of their lives? therefore he would not drink it. These things did these three mighty men.
- 2Sa 23:18 And Abishai, the brother of Joab, the son of Zeruiah, was chief among three. And he lifted up his spear against three hundred, *and* slew *them*, and had the name among three.
- 2Sa 23:19 Was he not most honourable of three? therefore he was their captain: howbeit he attained not unto the *first* three.
- 2Sa 23:20 And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, the son of a valiant man, of Kabzeel, who had done many acts, he slew two lion-like men of Moab: he went down also and slew a lion in the midst of a pit in time of snow:

- 2Sa 23:21 And he slew an Egyptian, a goodly man: and the Egyptian had a spear in his hand; but he went down to him with a staff, and plucked the spear out of the Egyptian's hand, and slew him with his own spear.
- 2Sa 23:22 These *things* did Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and had the name among three mighty men.
- 2Sa 23:23 He was more honourable than the thirty, but he attained not to the *first* three. And David set him over his guard.
- 2Sa 23:24 Asahel the brother of Joab *was* one of the thirty; Elhanan the son of Dodo of Bethlehem,
- 2Sa 23:25 Shammah the Harodite, Elikah the Harodite,
- 2Sa 23:26 Helez the Paltite, Ira the son of Ikkesh the Tekoite,
- 2Sa 23:27 Abiezer the Anethothite, Mebunnai the Hushathite,
- 2Sa 23:28 Zalmon the Ahohite, Maharai the Netophathite,
- 2Sa 23:29 Heleb the son of Baanah, a Netophathite, Ittai the son of Ribai out of Gibeah of the children of Benjamin,
- 2Sa 23:30 Benaiah the Pirathonite, Hiddai of the brooks of Gaash,
- 2Sa 23:31 Abialbon the Arbathite, Azmaveth the Barhumite,
- 2Sa 23:32 Eliahba the Shaalbonite, of the sons of Jashen, Jonathan,
- 2Sa 23:33 Shammah the Hararite, Ahiam the son of Sharar the Hararite,
- 2Sa 23:34 Eliphelet the son of Ahasbai, the son of the Maachathite, Eliam the son of Ahithophel the Gilonite,
- 2Sa 23:35 Hezrai the Carmelite, Paarai the Arbite,
- 2Sa 23:36 Igal the son of Nathan of Zobah, Bani the Gadite,
- 2Sa 23:37 Zelek the Ammonite, Naharai the Beerothite, armourbearer to Joab the son of Zeruiah,
- 2Sa 23:38 Ira an Ithrite, Gareb an Ithrite,
- 2Sa 23:39 Uriah the Hittite: thirty and seven in all.

*Preparation Day – August 23rd***1. What does Paul exhort us to do?****➤ Ephesians 4:22-24 —**

NOTE : ‘Conversion is a work that most do not appreciate. It is not a small matter to transform an earthly, sin-loving mind and bring it to understand the unspeakable love of Christ, the charms of His grace, and the excellency of God, so that the soul shall be imbued with divine love and captivated with the heavenly mysteries. When he understands these things, his former life appears disgusting and hateful. He hates sin, and, breaking his heart before God, he embraces Christ as the life and joy of the soul. He renounces his former pleasures. He has a new mind, new affections, new interest, new will; his sorrows, and desires, and love are all new. Heaven, which once possessed no charms, is now viewed in its riches and glory; and he contemplates it as his future home, where he shall see, love, and praise the One who hath redeemed him by His precious blood. The works of holiness, which appeared wearisome, are now his delight. The Word of God, which was dull and uninteresting, is now chosen as his study, the man of his counsel. It is as a letter written to him from God, bearing the inscription of the Eternal. His thoughts, his words, and his deeds are brought to this rule and tested. He trembles at the commands and threatenings which it contains, while he firmly grasps its promises and strengthens his soul by appropriating them to himself. When the transforming grace of Christ is upon the heart, a righteous indignation will take possession of the soul because the sinner has so long neglected the great salvation that God has provided for him. He will then surrender himself, body, soul, and spirit, to God and will withdraw from companionship with Satan, through the grace given him of God. All need to understand the process of conversion. The fruit is seen in the changed life.’ —*The Faith I Live By*, page 139.

2. Heaven’s Hotline

Last Day Events

Preparation Day, August 23rd, 2024

Last Day Events, Chapter 8, pp. 246

“The Loud Cry”

--

“The Seal of God and the Mark of the Beast”

August 23rd

Motive Gives Character to Actions

For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.

Matthew 12:37

In the day of judgment some will plead this good deed and that as a reason why they should receive consideration. They will say, "I set up young men in business. I gave money to found hospitals. I relieved the necessities of widows, and took the poor into my home." Yes, but your motives were so defiled by selfishness that the deed was not acceptable in the sight of the Lord. In all that you did, self was brought prominently to view.—*Manuscript 53, 1906.*

It is the motive that gives character to our acts, stamping them with ignominy or with high moral worth.—*The Desire of Ages, p. 615 (1898).*

Daily Scripture**Preparation Day, August 23rd, 2024****2nd Samuel Chapter 24****David's Census**

- 2Sa 24:1 And again the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, and he moved David against them to say, Go, number Israel and Judah.
- 2Sa 24:2 For the king said to Joab the captain of the host, which *was* with him, Go now through all the tribes of Israel, from Dan even to Beersheba, and number ye the people, that I may know the number of the people.
- 2Sa 24:3 And Joab said unto the king, Now the LORD thy God add unto the people, how many soever they be, an hundredfold, and that the eyes of my lord the king may see *it*: but why doth my lord the king delight in this thing?
- 2Sa 24:4 Notwithstanding the king's word prevailed against Joab, and against the captains of the host. And Joab and the captains of the host went out from the presence of the king, to number the people of Israel.
- 2Sa 24:5 And they passed over Jordan, and pitched in Aroer, on the right side of the city that *lies* in the midst of the river of Gad, and toward Jazer:
- 2Sa 24:6 Then they came to Gilead, and to the land of Tahtimhodshi; and they came to Danjaan, and about to Zidon,
- 2Sa 24:7 And came to the strong hold of Tyre, and to all the cities of the Hivites, and of the Canaanites: and they went out to the south of Judah, *even* to Beersheba.
- 2Sa 24:8 So when they had gone through all the land, they came to Jerusalem at the end of nine months and twenty days.
- 2Sa 24:9 And Joab gave up the sum of the number of the people unto the king: and there were in Israel eight hundred thousand valiant men that drew the sword; and the men of Judah *were* five hundred thousand men.

The Lord's Judgment of David's Sin

- 2Sa 24:10 And David's heart smote him after that he had numbered the people. And David said unto the LORD, I have sinned greatly in that I have done: and now, I beseech thee, O LORD, take away the iniquity of thy servant; for I have done very foolishly.
- 2Sa 24:11 For when David was up in the morning, the word of the LORD came unto the prophet Gad, David's seer, saying,
- 2Sa 24:12 Go and say unto David, Thus saith the LORD, I offer thee three *things*; choose thee one of them, that I may *do it* unto thee.
- 2Sa 24:13 So Gad came to David, and told him, and said unto him, Shall seven years of famine come unto thee in thy land? or wilt thou flee three months before thine enemies, while they pursue thee? or that there be three days' pestilence in thy land? now advise, and see what answer I shall return to him that sent me.
- 2Sa 24:14 And David said unto Gad, I am in a great strait: let us fall now into the hand of the LORD; for his mercies *are* great: and let me not fall into the hand of man.
- 2Sa 24:15 So the LORD sent a pestilence upon Israel from the morning even to the time appointed: and there died of the people from Dan even to Beersheba seventy thousand men.
- 2Sa 24:16 And when the angel stretched out his hand upon Jerusalem to destroy it, the LORD repented him of the evil, and said to the angel that destroyed the people, It is enough: stay now thine hand. And the angel of the LORD was by the threshing-place of Araunah the Jebusite.
- 2Sa 24:17 And David spake unto the LORD when he saw the angel that smote the people, and said, Lo, I have sinned, and I have done wickedly: but these sheep, what have they done? let thine hand, I pray thee, be against me, and against my father's house.

David Builds an Altar

- 2Sa 24:18 And Gad came that day to David, and said unto him, Go up, rear an altar unto the LORD in the threshingfloor of Araunah the Jebusite.
- 2Sa 24:19 And David, according to the saying of Gad, went up as the LORD commanded.
- 2Sa 24:20 And Araunah looked, and saw the king and his servants coming on toward him: and Araunah went out, and bowed himself before the king on his face upon the ground.
- 2Sa 24:21 And Araunah said, Wherefore is my lord the king come to his servant? And David said, To buy the threshingfloor of thee, to build an altar unto the LORD, that the plague may be stayed from the people.
- 2Sa 24:22 And Araunah said unto David, Let my lord the king take and offer up what *seems* good unto him: behold, *here be* oxen for burnt sacrifice, and threshing instruments and *other* instruments of the oxen for wood.
- 2Sa 24:23 All these *things* did Araunah, *as* a king, give unto the king. And Araunah said unto the king, The LORD thy God accept thee.
- 2Sa 24:24 And the king said unto Araunah, Nay; but I will surely buy *it* of thee at a price: neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the LORD my God of that which doth cost me nothing. So David bought the threshingfloor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.
- 2Sa 24:25 And David built there an altar unto the LORD, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. So the LORD was entreated for the land, and the plague was stayed from Israel.

*Adult Mission Story**Preparation Day, August 23rd, 2024*

Wilinton's [WILL-ing-ton] life began to change after he stopped drinking in Bogotá, Colombia.

He got a job, he began paying off his debts, and he married his common-law wife.

Then Wilinton, his wife, and their 12-year-old son decided to give their hearts to God in baptism.

A day before Wilinton's baptism, a Seventh-day Adventist friend predicted that God had big plans for him. "You are going to be the next apostle Paul," said the friend, Jaime. [hi-MEE] "You are going to help many people."

It didn't take long for Wilinton to realize that God was calling him to help alcoholics.

A month after his baptism, as he was walking to church on a Sabbath morning, he sensed a voice say, "Stop right here."

He stopped. Looking up, he saw a city street lined with bars where he used to drink.

The voice said, "You are going to help all these people. You drank, and now you are going to help others who drink. I'll give you opportunities, and I'll help you not to relapse."

At church, Wilinton sought out Jaime.

"I have an idea," he said.

"I also have an idea," Jaime said. "Tell me your idea first."

"I think that God is telling me to be a light in those bars where there is only darkness," Wilinton said.

“Wow!” Jaime exclaimed. “That’s the same idea that I had.”

It seemed like more than a coincidence. The two men agreed that the Holy Spirit must be calling Wilinton to help alcoholics.

Over the next week, Wilinton invited people in bars to come to his house to study the Bible. Eleven people showed up for the first Bible study on Sabbath afternoon.

As the weeks passed, the group grew too large to meet in his home. Wilinton rented a larger house. When the group grew too large for that house, they moved to a hall. People were baptized, and the group kept growing.

Finally, Wilinton decided that the group needed to own its own place. He looked for a building to buy, but city property was expensive. As he prayed, he felt impressed to visit a bar that he had frequented from the age of 16. It seemed improbable, but if he could buy the bar, it could be remodelled into a meeting hall.

He prayed, “God, do You really want me to work for you in a bar?”

Wilinton sought out the bar owner and learned that the building was up for sale.

The owner immediately recognized Wilinton, and he was shocked to see him sober.

“Is that really you?” he asked.

“Yes, it’s me,” Wilinton said.

“Do you remember how you used to come here to drink all the time?” he said.

“Yes, I remember.”

The owner shook his head in disbelief. “I know you,” he said. “I can’t believe that you have a new life.”

He named the price for the building.

Wilinton didn’t have that kind of money. He told other church members about the building, but they also didn’t have the funds.

Wilinton wasn’t discouraged. “The plans of God are perfect,” he told them. “Don’t worry. This building will be ours.”

He and the other church members started to pray and raise funds. A year later, they bought the bar and turned it into an Adventist church and center of influence.

Today, 50 people worship in the church every Sabbath. During the week, the center of influence offers life-skills classes and a program to stop drinking.

Wilinton, who is a church elder and deputy director of the center of influence, said that, through his small group, more than 15 former alcoholics have given their hearts to Jesus and been baptized. In addition, 85 people have been baptized through the new church and center of influence over the past three years.

“Now I am working for Jesus and seeking the missing,” Wilinton said. “I have decided to be like Paul, always sharing the gospel and asking God for His power to lead people to Him.”

He added, “God’s plans are perfect, and they never change.”

This mission story provides an inside look at life in Colombia and missional challenges there. Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help open two centers of influence to help children who are at risk of alcohol and drug abuse in Colombia. The centers of influence will be in the cities of Buenaventura and Puerto Tejada. Thank you for planning a generous offering on September 28.

By Andrew McChesney

LESSON 9

“THE PATIENCE OF THE SAINTS”

August 24 — August 30

MEMORY VERSE : ‘For you have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, you might receive the promise.’ [Hebrews 10:36]

STUDY HELP : ✓ Maranatha, The Lord is Coming, page 95

SCRIPTURE : Hebrews 10:35-39

LESSON AIM : To study the importance of perseverance in the Christian life.

INTRODUCTION : ‘It will cost us an effort to secure eternal life. It is only by long and persevering effort, sore discipline, and stern conflict, that we shall be overcomers. But if we patiently and determinedly, in the name of the Conqueror who overcame in our behalf in the wilderness of temptation, overcome as He overcame, we shall have the eternal reward. Our efforts, our self-denial, our perseverance, must be proportionate to the infinitive value of the object of which we are in pursuit. Wrongs cannot be righted, nor reformations in character made, by a few feeble, intermittent efforts. Sanctification is not a work of a day or a year, but of a lifetime. Without continual efforts and constant activity, there can be no advancement in the divine life, no attainment of the victor’s crown. You have need of constant watchfulness, lest Satan beguile you through his subtlety, corrupt your minds, and lead you into inconsistencies and gross darkness. Your watchfulness should be characterised by a spirit of humble dependence upon God. It should not be carried on with a proud, self-reliant spirit, but with a deep sense of your personal weakness, and a childlike trust in the promises of God.’ —*Gospel Workers*, 1892 ed., page 205.

*Sabbath – August 24th***1. What request did the dying thief make of Jesus and what reply was given to him?**

➤ **Luke 23:42-43 —**

NOTE : The experience of the dying thief is used by many as the norm for being saved. It is assumed that his case cancels out all the rest of the New Testament teaching on becoming a Christian and the qualifications for eternal life. His case is raised to support the view that conversion is a simple step, rather than a complex process. All that is required, it is concluded, is a simple expression of faith. But the thief’s circumstances were unique. He was a man suffering capital punishment. His case is a good precedent for anyone facing imminent and deserved execution (both John and Charles Wesley used his case when riding with condemned felons to the gallows). But to use his case to convince healthy people anticipating a normal lifespan that this is all they need to do is unwarranted. ‘When condemned for his crime, the thief had become hopeless and despairing; but strange, tender thoughts now spring up. He calls to mind all he has heard of Jesus, how He has healed the sick and pardoned sin. He has heard the words of those who believed in Jesus and followed Him weeping. He has seen and read the title above the Saviour’s head. He has heard the passers-by repeat it, some with grieved, quivering

lips, others with jesting and mockery. The Holy Spirit illuminates his mind, and little by little the chain of evidence is joined together. In Jesus, bruised, mocked, and hanging upon the cross, he sees the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world. Hope is mingled with anguish in his voice as the helpless, dying soul casts himself upon a dying Saviour. "Lord, remember me," he cries, "when Thou come into Thy kingdom." —*The Desire of Ages*, page 750.

2. Heaven's Hotline



E. G. W. Study Help 1*Sabbath, August 24th, 2024***Maranatha, The Lord is Coming
Chapter 3, p. 95****March 28th****The Scriptures Our Safeguard****Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?****Hebrews 1:14**

So long as the people of God preserve their fidelity to Him, so long as they cling by living faith to Jesus, they are under the protection of heavenly angels, and Satan will not be permitted to exercise his hellish arts upon them to their destruction. But those who separate themselves from Christ by sin are in great peril. . . .

Satan is now more earnestly engaged in playing the game of life for souls than at any previous time; and unless we are constantly on our guard, he will establish in our hearts, pride, love of self, love of the world, and many other evil traits. He will also use every possible device to unsettle our faith in God and in the truths of His Word. If we have not a deep experience in the things of God, if we have not a thorough knowledge of His Word, we shall be beguiled to our ruin by the errors and sophistries of the enemy. False doctrines will sap the foundations of many, because they have not learned to discern truth from error. Our only safeguard against the wiles of Satan is to study the Scriptures diligently, to have an intelligent understanding of the reasons of our faith, and faithfully to perform every known duty. The indulgence of one known sin will cause weakness and darkness, and subject us to fierce temptation. . . .

Are we opening the door of the heart to Jesus, and closing every means of entrance to Satan? Are we daily obtaining clearer light, and greater strength, that we may stand in Christ's righteousness? Are we emptying our hearts of all selfishness, and cleansing them, preparatory to receiving the latter rain from heaven? . . .

The work of overcoming is a great work. Shall we take hold of it with energy and perseverance? Unless we do, our "filthy garments" will not be taken from us. We need never expect that these will be torn from us violently; we must first show a desire to rid ourselves of them. We must seek to separate sin from us, relying upon the merits of the blood of Christ; and then in the day of affliction, when the enemy presses us, we shall walk among the angels.

Last Day Events***Sabbath, August 24th, 2024******Last Day Events, Chapter 8, pp. 247*****“The Loud Cry”****--****“The Seal of God and the Mark of the Beast”****August 24th****What the Seal of God Is**

Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

Exodus 20:8-11

Just as soon as the people of God are sealed in their foreheads--it is not any seal or mark that can be seen, but a settling into the truth, both intellectually and spiritually, so they cannot be moved--just as soon as God's people are sealed and prepared for the shaking, it will come. Indeed, it has begun already. —*SDA Bible Commentary*, vol. 4, p. 1161 (1902).

The seal of the living God is placed upon those who conscientiously keep the Sabbath of the Lord.--7BC 980 (1897). [THIS STATEMENT AND OTHERS LIKE IT SHOULD BE UNDERSTOOD IN THE LIGHT OF PASSAGES QUOTED EARLIER IN THE CHAPTER, INDICATING THAT GOD HOLDS PEOPLE RESPONSIBLE ONLY FOR THE KNOWLEDGE THEY HAVE OR WHICH THEY COULD OBTAIN.]

Those who would have the seal of God in their foreheads must keep the Sabbath of the fourth commandment. —*SDA Bible Commentary*, vol. 7, p. 970 (1899).

True observance of the Sabbath is the sign of loyalty to God.—*SDA Bible Commentary*, vol. 7, p. 981 (1899).

The fourth commandment alone of all the ten contains the seal of the great Lawgiver, the Creator of the heavens and the earth.—*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 350 (1900).

The observance of the Lord's memorial, the Sabbath instituted in Eden, the seventh-day Sabbath, is the test of our loyalty to God.—*Letter 94*, 1900.

A mark is placed upon every one of God's people, just as verily as a mark was placed over the doors of the Hebrew dwellings to preserve the people from the general ruin. God declares, "*I gave them My Sabbaths, to be a sign between Me and them, that they might know that I am the Lord that sanctify them.*" [Ezekiel 20:12]—*SDA Bible Commentary*, vol. 7, p. 969 (1900).

Daily Scripture**Sabbath, August 24th, 2024****1st Kings Chapter 1****David in His Old Age**

- 1Ki 1:1 Now king David was old *and* stricken in years; and they covered him with clothes, but he got no heat.
- 1Ki 1:2 Wherefore his servants said unto him, Let there be sought for my lord the king a young virgin: and let her stand before the king, and let her cherish him, and let her lie in thy bosom, that my lord the king may get heat.
- 1Ki 1:3 So they sought for a fair damsel throughout all the coasts of Israel, and found Abishag a Shunammite, and brought her to the king.
- 1Ki 1:4 And the damsel *was* very fair, and cherished the king, and ministered to him: but the king knew her not.

Adonijah Sets Himself Up as King

- 1Ki 1:5 Then Adonijah the son of Haggith exalted himself, saying, I will be king: and he prepared him chariots and horsemen, and fifty men to run before him.
- 1Ki 1:6 And his father had not displeased him at any time in saying, Why hast thou done so? and he also *was a* very goodly *man*; and *his mother* bare him after Absalom.
- 1Ki 1:7 And he conferred with Joab the son of Zeruiah, and with Abiathar the priest: and they following Adonijah helped *him*.
- 1Ki 1:8 But Zadok the priest, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and Nathan the prophet, and Shimei, and Rei, and the mighty men which *belonged* to David, were not with Adonijah.
- 1Ki 1:9 And Adonijah slew sheep and oxen and fat cattle by the stone of Zohaleth, which *is* by Enrogel, and called all his brethren the king's sons, and all the men of Judah the king's servants:
- 1Ki 1:10 But Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah, and the mighty men, and Solomon his brother, he called not.

Nathan and Bathsheba Before David

- 1Ki 1:11 Wherefore Nathan spake unto Bathsheba the mother of Solomon, saying, Hast thou not heard that Adonijah the son of Haggith doth reign, and David our lord knows *it* not?
- 1Ki 1:12 Now therefore come, let me, I pray thee, give thee counsel, that thou may save thine own life, and the life of thy son Solomon.
- 1Ki 1:13 Go and get thee in unto king David, and say unto him, Didst not thou, my lord, O king, swear unto thine handmaid, saying, Assuredly Solomon thy son shall reign after me, and he shall sit upon my throne? why then doth Adonijah reign?
- 1Ki 1:14 Behold, while thou yet talk there with the king, I also will come in after thee, and confirm thy words.
- 1Ki 1:15 And Bathsheba went in unto the king into the chamber: and the king was very old; and Abishag the Shunammite ministered unto the king.
- 1Ki 1:16 And Bathsheba bowed, and did obeisance unto the king. And the king said, What would thou?
- 1Ki 1:17 And she said unto him, My lord, thou swear by the LORD thy God unto thine handmaid, *saying*, Assuredly Solomon thy son shall reign after me, and he shall sit upon my throne.
- 1Ki 1:18 And now, behold, Adonijah reigns; and now, my lord the king, thou knows *it* not:
- 1Ki 1:19 And he hath slain oxen and fat cattle and sheep in abundance, and hath called all the sons of the king, and Abiathar the priest, and Joab the captain of the host: but Solomon thy servant hath he not called.
- 1Ki 1:20 And thou, my lord, O king, the eyes of all Israel *are* upon thee, that thou should tell them who shall sit on the throne of my lord the king after him.
- 1Ki 1:21 Otherwise it shall come to pass, when my lord the king shall sleep with his fathers, that I and my son Solomon shall be counted offenders.
- 1Ki 1:22 And, lo, while she yet talked with the king, Nathan the prophet also came in.

- 1Ki 1:23 And they told the king, saying, Behold Nathan the prophet. And when he was come in before the king, he bowed himself before the king with his face to the ground.
- 1Ki 1:24 And Nathan said, My lord, O king, hast thou said, Adonijah shall reign after me, and he shall sit upon my throne?
- 1Ki 1:25 For he is gone down this day, and hath slain oxen and fat cattle and sheep in abundance, and hath called all the king's sons, and the captains of the host, and Abiathar the priest; and, behold, they eat and drink before him, and say, God save king Adonijah.
- 1Ki 1:26 But me, *even* me thy servant, and Zadok the priest, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and thy servant Solomon, hath he not called.
- 1Ki 1:27 Is this thing done by my lord the king, and thou hast not shewed *it* unto thy servant, who should sit on the throne of my lord the king after him?

Solomon Anointed King

- 1Ki 1:28 Then king David answered and said, Call me Bathsheba. And she came into the king's presence, and stood before the king.
- 1Ki 1:29 And the king swore, and said, *As* the LORD lives, that hath redeemed my soul out of all distress,
- 1Ki 1:30 Even as I swear unto thee by the LORD God of Israel, saying, Assuredly Solomon thy son shall reign after me, and he shall sit upon my throne in my stead; even so will I certainly do this day.
- 1Ki 1:31 Then Bathsheba bowed with *her* face to the earth, and did reverence to the king, and said, Let my lord king David live for ever.
- 1Ki 1:32 And king David said, Call me Zadok the priest, and Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada. And they came before the king.
- 1Ki 1:33 The king also said unto them, Take with you the servants of your lord, and cause Solomon my son to ride upon mine own mule, and bring him down to Gihon:
- 1Ki 1:34 And let Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him there king over Israel: and blow ye with the trumpet, and say, God save king Solomon.
- 1Ki 1:35 Then ye shall come up after him, that he may come and sit upon my throne; for he shall be king in my stead: and I have appointed him to be ruler over Israel and over Judah.
- 1Ki 1:36 And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada answered the king, and said, Amen: the LORD God of my lord the king say so *too*.
- 1Ki 1:37 As the LORD hath been with my lord the king, even so be he with Solomon, and make his throne greater than the throne of my lord king David.
- 1Ki 1:38 So Zadok the priest, and Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and the Cherethites, and the Pelethites, went down, and caused Solomon to ride upon king David's mule, and brought him to Gihon.
- 1Ki 1:39 And Zadok the priest took an horn of oil out of the tabernacle, and anointed Solomon. And they blew the trumpet; and all the people said, God save king Solomon.
- 1Ki 1:40 And all the people came up after him, and the people piped with pipes, and rejoiced with great joy, so that the earth rent with the sound of them.
- 1Ki 1:41 And Adonijah and all the guests that *were* with him heard *it* as they had made an end of eating. And when Joab heard the sound of the trumpet, he said, Wherefore *is this* noise of the city being in an uproar?
- 1Ki 1:42 And while he yet spake, behold, Jonathan the son of Abiathar the priest came: and Adonijah said unto him, Come in; for thou *art* a valiant man, and brings good tidings.
- 1Ki 1:43 And Jonathan answered and said to Adonijah, Verily our lord king David hath made Solomon king.
- 1Ki 1:44 And the king hath sent with him Zadok the priest, and Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and the Cherethites, and the Pelethites, and they have caused him to ride upon the king's mule:
- 1Ki 1:45 And Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet have anointed him king in Gihon: and they are come up from thence rejoicing, so that the city rang again. This *is* the noise that ye have heard.
- 1Ki 1:46 And also Solomon sits on the throne of the kingdom.

- 1Ki 1:47 And moreover the king's servants came to bless our lord king David, saying, God make the name of Solomon better than thy name, and make his throne greater than thy throne. And the king bowed himself upon the bed.
- 1Ki 1:48 And also thus said the king, Blessed *be* the LORD God of Israel, which hath given *one* to sit on my throne this day, mine eyes even seeing *it*.
- 1Ki 1:49 And all the guests that *were* with Adonijah were afraid, and rose up, and went every man his way.
- 1Ki 1:50 And Adonijah feared because of Solomon, and arose, and went, and caught hold on the horns of the altar.
- 1Ki 1:51 And it was told Solomon, saying, Behold, Adonijah fears king Solomon: for, lo, he hath caught hold on the horns of the altar, saying, Let king Solomon swear unto me today that he will not slay his servant with the sword.
- 1Ki 1:52 And Solomon said, If he will shew himself a worthy man, there shall not an hair of him fall to the earth: but if wickedness shall be found in him, he shall die.
- 1Ki 1:53 So king Solomon sent, and they brought him down from the altar. And he came and bowed himself to king Solomon: and Solomon said unto him, Go to thine house.

*Children's Mission Story**Sabbath, May 25th, 2024*

Teacher stood at the front of the classroom at the public school in Dominica. Rows of little first-grade children sat in their seats. Teacher spoke. The children listened. Except one.

Tap ... tap ... tap.

The noise interrupted Teacher as she spoke in the otherwise quiet classroom.

Tap ... tap ... tap.

Teacher stopped and frowned. Where was the sound coming from? She looked around the room. Her eyes stopped on 6-year-old Khyshawn.

Tap ... tap ... tap.

The little boy had a pencil in his hand, and he was slowly tapping it against his wooden desk.

Tap ... tap ... tap.

“Khyshawn,” [KEE-shann] Teacher said. “Stop doing that.”

Khyshawn laid the pencil down on the desk. Teacher resumed speaking. The children resumed listening. Several minutes passed. But then,

Tap ... tap ... tap.

Teacher looked upset. Some of the children giggled. Khyshawn didn't notice. He was too busy.

Tap ... tap ... tap.

"Khyshawn," Teacher said. "I told you to stop doing that."

Everything was quiet for a few more minutes. Then again,

Tap ... tap ... tap.

Teacher picked up her phone and called Khyshawn's mother.

"Take Khyshawn home," she said.

Mother arrived at the school a short time later.

It wasn't the first time that Teacher had called.

Khyshawn was a good boy. But he had trouble focusing on school. He was easily distracted and couldn't keep still. He kept his mind occupied by tapping his pencil.

Tapping wasn't the only way that Khyshawn disrupted the class. Sometimes, he got tired of sitting still, and he began to run around the classroom.

Teacher would ask him to sit, and he obeyed. But after a few minutes he would get up and run again.

Finally, Teacher would call Mother.

"He's disrupting the class," she would say. "Come, take him home."

One day, Khyshawn asked Mother if he was a monster. He had heard the mother of another boy call him a monster in front of the school principal.

Mother looked sad. She held the boy in her arms.

"No, you are not a monster," she said. "You just have ADHD."

Khyshawn was not a monster. He only had ADHD (attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder), which made it harder for his mind to focus and his body to stay still. His brain just worked differently.

Mother wasn't sure what to do. Then one of her friends told her about a Seventh-day Adventist school. "Go to the principal and tell her about your situation," the friend said.

Mother did.

The principal said her class was very full and she didn't have any space for more children. But when she heard Khyshawn's story, she said, "I'll give him a chance."

On Khyshawn's first day at the Adventist school, nobody called Mother to come and take him home.

When Mother arrived to pick him up after school, the principal said, "He's a normal boy."

Mother was so happy!

Khyshawm was also happy. On his first day of school, he had made a new friend.

Khyshawm is now 7 years old and in the second grade. He no longer taps his pencil on the desk or runs around the classroom. His teacher gives him so many things to do that he doesn't have time to be distracted.

He likes his school. He likes praying and learning about God. He likes it when the teacher tells the children, "God loves you. God loves everyone."

At home, he asks Mother, "Does God really love me?"

"Yes," Mother says. "God loves all His children."

He likes knowing that he is loved. Mother loves him. The teachers and other children love him. Most of all, God loves him.

Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help Khyshawm's school, Ebenezer Seventh-day Adventist Primary School, expand with a new building in Dominica's capital, Roseau. The school was full when Khyshawm's mother wanted to enrol him, and it remains full and in need of a larger building. Thank you for planning a generous offering on September 28.

By Andrew McChesney

Sunday – August 25th

1. How are we shown that the dying thief was truly repentant?

➤ **Luke 23:40-41** —

NOTE : The dying thief had no opportunity to perform the deeds of repentance (see Ezekiel 33:14-16). He had no opportunity to be baptised. He did everything he could: he confessed his sins and confessed his faith in Jesus. He was perhaps the only one that day who believed the words written above the Saviour's head. To use his case to reassure those who could do more that they need not do so is dangerous counsel.

'The dying thieves have no longer anything to fear from man. But upon one of them presses the conviction that there is a God to fear, a future to cause him to tremble. And now, all sin-polluted as it is, his life history is about to close. "And we indeed justly," he moans; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this Man hath done nothing amiss." There is no question now. There are no doubts, no reproaches.' — *The Desire of Ages*, page 750.

n.b. The placement of the word 'today' in the Greek leaves no doubt that it relates to the verb 'I say unto thee', not 'thou shalt be'. Christ's words to Mary in John 20:17 show that He did not go to Paradise on the day of His death. Nevertheless the repentant thief received the assurance on the very day that he and the Lord were suffering the reproach and scorn of men. He was assured that he would be with the Lord in Paradise.

2. How does Paul explain that the Christian life requires effort on the part of the believer?

➤ **Hebrews 12:1** —

NOTE : 'In the epistle to the Hebrews is pointed out the single-hearted purpose that should characterise the Christian's race for eternal life: "Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith." Hebrews 12:1, 2. Envy, malice, evil thinking, evil speaking, covetousness, these are weights that the Christian must lay aside if he would run successfully the race for immortality. Every habit or practice that leads into sin and brings dishonour upon Christ must be put away, whatever the sacrifice. The blessing of heaven cannot attend any man in violating the eternal principles of right. One sin cherished is sufficient to work degradation of character and to mislead others.' — *The Acts of the Apostles*, page 312.

3. Heaven's Hotline

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Last Day Events***Sunday, August 25th, 2024******Last Day Events, Chapter 8, pp. 248*****“The Loud Cry”**

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“The Seal of God and the Mark of the Beast”**August 25th****A Likeness to Christ in Character**

Nevertheless the foundation of God stands sure, having this seal, The Lord knows them that are his. And, Let everyone that names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

2 Timothy 2:19

The seal of the living God will be placed upon those only who bear a likeness to Christ in character.—*SDA Bible Commentary*, vol. 7, p. 970 (1895).

Those who receive the seal of the living God and are protected in the time of trouble must reflect the image of Jesus fully.—*Early Writings*, p. 71 (1851).

The seal of God will never be placed upon the forehead of an impure man or woman. It will never be placed upon the forehead of the ambitious, world-loving man or woman. It will never be placed upon the forehead of men or women of false tongues or deceitful hearts. All who receive the seal must be without spot before God--candidates for heaven.—*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 216 (1882).

Love is expressed in obedience, and perfect love casts out all fear. Those who love God, have the seal of God in their foreheads, and work the works of God.—*Sons and Daughters of God*, p. 51 (1894).

Those that overcome the world, the flesh, and the devil, will be the favoured ones who shall receive the seal of the living God.—*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 445 (c. 1886).

Are we striving with all our God-given powers to reach the measure of the stature of men and women in Christ? Are we seeking for His fullness, ever reaching higher and higher, trying to attain to the perfection of His character? When God's servants reach this point, they will be sealed in their foreheads. The recording angel will declare, "*It is done.*" [] They will be complete in Him whose they are by creation and by redemption.—*Selected Messages, Book 3*, p. 427 (1899).

Daily Scripture**Sunday, August 25th, 2024****1st Kings Chapter 2****David's Instructions to Solomon**

- 1Ki 2:1 Now the days of David drew nigh that he should die; and he charged Solomon his son, saying,
- 1Ki 2:2 I go the way of all the earth: be thou strong therefore, and shew thyself a man;
- 1Ki 2:3 And keep the charge of the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, to keep his statutes, and his commandments, and his judgments, and his testimonies, as it is written in the law of Moses, that thou may prosper in all that thou do, and whithersoever thou turn thyself:
- 1Ki 2:4 That the LORD may continue his word which he spake concerning me, saying, If thy children take heed to their way, to walk before me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul, there shall not fail thee (said he) a man on the throne of Israel.
- 1Ki 2:5 Moreover thou know also what Joab the son of Zeruiah did to me, *and* what he did to the two captains of the hosts of Israel, unto Abner the son of Ner, and unto Amasa the son of Jether, whom he slew, and shed the blood of war in peace, and put the blood of war upon his girdle that *was* about his loins, and in his shoes that *were* on his feet.
- 1Ki 2:6 Do therefore according to thy wisdom, and let not his hoar head go down to the grave in peace.
- 1Ki 2:7 But shew kindness unto the sons of Barzillai the Gileadite, and let them be of those that eat at thy table: for so they came to me when I fled because of Absalom thy brother.
- 1Ki 2:8 And, behold, *thou hast* with thee Shimei the son of Gera, a Benjamite of Bahurim, which cursed me with a grievous curse in the day when I went to Mahanaim: but he came down to meet me at Jordan, and I swore to him by the LORD, saying, I will not put thee to death with the sword.
- 1Ki 2:9 Now therefore hold him not guiltless: for thou *art* a wise man, and know what thou ought to do unto him; but his hoar head bring thou down to the grave with blood.

The Death of David

- 1Ki 2:10 So David slept with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David.
- 1Ki 2:11 And the days that David reigned over Israel *were* forty years: seven years reigned he in Hebron, and thirty and three years reigned he in Jerusalem.
- 1Ki 2:12 Then sat Solomon upon the throne of David his father; and his kingdom was established greatly.

Solomon's Reign Established

- 1Ki 2:13 And Adonijah the son of Haggith came to Bathsheba the mother of Solomon. And she said, Come thou peaceably? And he said, Peaceably.
- 1Ki 2:14 He said moreover, I have somewhat to say unto thee. And she said, Say on.
- 1Ki 2:15 And he said, Thou know that the kingdom was mine, and *that* all Israel set their faces on me, that I should reign: howbeit the kingdom is turned about, and is become my brother's: for it was his from the LORD.
- 1Ki 2:16 And now I ask one petition of thee, deny me not. And she said unto him, Say on.
- 1Ki 2:17 And he said, Speak, I pray thee, unto Solomon the king, (for he will not say thee nay,) that he give me Abishag the Shunammite to wife.
- 1Ki 2:18 And Bathsheba said, Well; I will speak for thee unto the king.
- 1Ki 2:19 Bathsheba therefore went unto king Solomon, to speak unto him for Adonijah. And the king rose up to meet her, and bowed himself unto her, and sat down on his throne, and caused a seat to be set for the king's mother; and she sat on his right hand.
- 1Ki 2:20 Then she said, I desire one small petition of thee; *I pray thee*, say me not nay. And the king said unto her, Ask on, my mother: for I will not say thee nay.
- 1Ki 2:21 And she said, Let Abishag the Shunammite be given to Adonijah thy brother to wife.

- 1Ki 2:22 And king Solomon answered and said unto his mother, And why dost thou ask Abishag the Shunammite for Adonijah? ask for him the kingdom also; for he *is* mine elder brother; even for him, and for Abiathar the priest, and for Joab the son of Zeruiah.
- 1Ki 2:23 Then king Solomon swore by the LORD, saying, God do so to me, and more also, if Adonijah have not spoken this word against his own life.
- 1Ki 2:24 Now therefore, *as* the LORD lives, which hath established me, and set me on the throne of David my father, and who hath made me an house, as he promised, Adonijah shall be put to death this day.
- 1Ki 2:25 And king Solomon sent by the hand of Benaiah the son of Jehoiada; and he fell upon him that he died.
- 1Ki 2:26 And unto Abiathar the priest said the king, Get thee to Anathoth, unto thine own fields; for thou *art* worthy of death: but I will not at this time put thee to death, because thou barest the ark of the Lord GOD before David my father, and because thou hast been afflicted in all wherein my father was afflicted.
- 1Ki 2:27 So Solomon thrust out Abiathar from being priest unto the LORD; that he might fulfil the word of the LORD, which he spake concerning the house of Eli in Shiloh.
- 1Ki 2:28 Then tidings came to Joab: for Joab had turned after Adonijah, though he turned not after Absalom. And Joab fled unto the tabernacle of the LORD, and caught hold on the horns of the altar.
- 1Ki 2:29 And it was told king Solomon that Joab was fled unto the tabernacle of the LORD; and, behold, *he is* by the altar. Then Solomon sent Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, saying, Go, fall upon him.
- 1Ki 2:30 And Benaiah came to the tabernacle of the LORD, and said unto him, Thus saith the king, Come forth. And he said, Nay; but I will die here. And Benaiah brought the king word again, saying, Thus said Joab, and thus he answered me.
- 1Ki 2:31 And the king said unto him, Do as he hath said, and fall upon him, and bury him; that thou may take away the innocent blood, which Joab shed, from me, and from the house of my father.
- 1Ki 2:32 And the LORD shall return his blood upon his own head, who fell upon two men more righteous and better than he, and slew them with the sword, my father David not knowing *thereof, to wit*, Abner the son of Ner, captain of the host of Israel, and Amasa the son of Jether, captain of the host of Judah.
- 1Ki 2:33 Their blood shall therefore return upon the head of Joab, and upon the head of his seed for ever: but upon David, and upon his seed, and upon his house, and upon his throne, shall there be peace for ever from the LORD.
- 1Ki 2:34 So Benaiah the son of Jehoiada went up, and fell upon him, and slew him: and he was buried in his own house in the wilderness.
- 1Ki 2:35 And the king put Benaiah the son of Jehoiada in his room over the host: and Zadok the priest did the king put in the room of Abiathar.
- 1Ki 2:36 And the king sent and called for Shimei, and said unto him, Build thee an house in Jerusalem, and dwell there, and go not forth thence any whither.
- 1Ki 2:37 For it shall be, *that* on the day thou go out, and pass over the brook Kidron, thou shalt know for certain that thou shalt surely die: thy blood shall be upon thine own head.
- 1Ki 2:38 And Shimei said unto the king, The saying *is* good: as my lord the king hath said, so will thy servant do. And Shimei dwelt in Jerusalem many days.
- 1Ki 2:39 And it came to pass at the end of three years, that two of the servants of Shimei ran away unto Achish son of Maachah king of Gath. And they told Shimei, saying, Behold, thy servants *be* in Gath.
- 1Ki 2:40 And Shimei arose, and saddled his ass, and went to Gath to Achish to seek his servants: and Shimei went, and brought his servants from Gath.
- 1Ki 2:41 And it was told Solomon that Shimei had gone from Jerusalem to Gath, and was come again.
- 1Ki 2:42 And the king sent and called for Shimei, and said unto him, Did I not make thee to swear by the LORD, and protested unto thee, saying, Know for a certain, on the day thou go out, and walk abroad any whither, that thou shalt surely die? and thou said unto me, The word *that* I have heard *is* good.
- 1Ki 2:43 Why then hast thou not kept the oath of the LORD, and the commandment that I have charged thee with?
- 1Ki 2:44 The king said moreover to Shimei, Thou know all the wickedness which thine heart is privy to, that thou didst to David my father: therefore the LORD shall return thy wickedness upon thine own head;

- 1Ki 2:45 And king Solomon *shall be* blessed, and the throne of David shall be established before the LORD for ever.
- 1Ki 2:46 So the king commanded Benaiah the son of Jehoiada; which went out, and fell upon him, that he died. And the kingdom was established in the hand of Solomon.

Monday – August 26th

1. How does Paul emphasise that holiness is essential for eternal life?

➤ **Hebrews 12:14** —

NOTE : ‘It is the mingling of judgment and mercy that makes salvation complete. Mercy invites us to enter through the gates into the city of God, and justice is satisfied to accord to every obedient soul full privileges as a member of the royal family, a child of the heavenly King. If we were defective in character, we could not pass the gates that mercy has opened to the obedient; for justice stands at the entrance, and demands holiness in all who would see God. Were justice extinct, and were it possible for divine mercy to open the gates to the whole race, irrespective of character, there would be a worse condition of disaffection and rebellion in heaven than before Satan was expelled. The peace, happiness, and harmony of heaven would be broken. The change from earth to heaven will not change men’s character; the happiness of the redeemed in heaven results from the character formed in this life after the image of Christ. The saints in heaven will first have been saints on earth.’ —*Maranatha, The Lord is Coming*, page 326.

5. Is sanctification by works?

➤ **Jude 1:1** —

NOTE : Are people more anxious to know how little they need to be safe than how much they need to be saved? Has too much emphasis been put on justification and too little on sanctification when preaching the Gospel? Is a place in heaven more important to secure than a character of holiness? To ask such questions is not necessarily to fall into the trap of teaching justification by faith and sanctification by works. Both justification and sanctification are the results of the work of God’s grace. The gospel is not an offer of justification and a demand for sanctification. Both are offered by the true Gospel; both must be appropriated and applied by man. What is the standing of the one who receives grace of justification but refuses the grace of sanctification?

‘It is one thing to read and teach the Bible, and another thing to have by practice its life-giving, sanctifying principles engrafted on the soul. “By grace are ye saved through faith” (Ephesians 2:8). The mind should be educated to exercise faith rather than to cherish doubt... We are too prone to regard obstacles as impossibilities. To have faith in the promises of God, to go forward by faith, pressing on without being governed by circumstances, is a lesson hard to learn. Yet it is a positive necessity that every child of God should learn this lesson. The grace of God through Christ is ever to be cherished, for it is given us as the only way of approaching God.’ —*In Heavenly Places*, page 109.

2. Heaven’s Hotline

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Last Day Events***Monday, August 26th, 2024******Last Day Events, Chapter 8, pp. 249******“The Loud Cry”***

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“The Seal of God and the Mark of the Beast”**August 26th****In the Sealing Time Now****And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.****Ephesians 4:30**

I saw that the present test on the Sabbath could not come until the mediation of Jesus in the holy place was finished and He had passed within the second veil; therefore Christians who fell asleep before the door was opened into the most holy, when the midnight cry was finished, at the seventh month, 1844, and who had not kept the true Sabbath, now rest in hope, for they had not the light and the test on the Sabbath which we now have since that door was opened. I saw that Satan was tempting some of God's people on this point. Because so many good Christians have fallen asleep in the triumphs of faith and have not kept the true Sabbath, they were doubting about its being a test for us now. . .

Satan is now using every device in this sealing time to keep the minds of God's people from the present truth and to cause them to waver.—*Early Writings*, p. 42, 43 (1851).

I saw that she [Mrs. Hastings] was sealed and would come up at the voice of God and stand upon the earth, and would be with the 144,000. I saw we need not mourn for her; she would rest in the time of trouble.—*Selected Messages, Book 3*, p. 263 (1850).

There are living upon our earth men who have passed the age of fourscore and ten. The natural results of old age are seen in their feebleness. But they believe God, and God loves them. The seal of God is upon them, and they will be among the number of whom the Lord has said, "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord."—*SDA Bible Commentary*, vol. 7, p. 982 (1899).

Daily Scripture**Monday, August 26th, 2024****1st Kings Chapter 3****Solomon's Prayer for Wisdom**

- 1Ki 3:1 And Solomon made affinity with Pharaoh king of Egypt, and took Pharaoh's daughter, and brought her into the city of David, until he had made an end of building his own house, and the house of the LORD, and the wall of Jerusalem round about.
- 1Ki 3:2 Only the people sacrificed in high places, because there was no house built unto the name of the LORD, until those days.
- 1Ki 3:3 And Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of David his father: only he sacrificed and burnt incense in high places.
- 1Ki 3:4 And the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there; for that *was* the great high place: a thousand burnt offerings did Solomon offer upon that altar.
- 1Ki 3:5 In Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night: and God said, Ask what I shall give thee.
- 1Ki 3:6 And Solomon said, Thou hast shewed unto thy servant David my father great mercy, according as he walked before thee in truth, and in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with thee; and thou hast kept for him this great kindness, that thou hast given him a son to sit on his throne, as *it is* this day.
- 1Ki 3:7 And now, O LORD my God, thou hast made thy servant king instead of David my father: and I *am but* a little child: I know not *how* to go out or come in.
- 1Ki 3:8 And thy servant *is* in the midst of thy people which thou hast chosen, a great people, that cannot be numbered nor counted for multitude.
- 1Ki 3:9 Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?
- 1Ki 3:10 And the speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing.
- 1Ki 3:11 And God said unto him, Because thou hast asked this thing, and hast not asked for thyself long life; neither hast asked riches for thyself, nor hast asked the life of thine enemies; but hast asked for thyself understanding to discern judgment;
- 1Ki 3:12 Behold, I have done according to thy words: lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart; so that there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee.
- 1Ki 3:13 And I have also given thee that which thou hast not asked, both riches, and honour: so that there shall not be any among the kings like unto thee all thy days.
- 1Ki 3:14 And if thou wilt walk in my ways, to keep my statutes and my commandments, as thy father David did walk, then I will lengthen thy days.
- 1Ki 3:15 And Solomon awoke; and, behold, *it was* a dream. And he came to Jerusalem, and stood before the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and offered up burnt offerings, and offered peace offerings, and made a feast to all his servants.

Solomon's Wisdom

- 1Ki 3:16 Then came there two women, *that were* harlots, unto the king, and stood before him.
- 1Ki 3:17 And the one woman said, O my lord, I and this woman dwell in one house; and I was delivered of a child with her in the house.
- 1Ki 3:18 And it came to pass the third day after that I was delivered, that this woman was delivered also: and we *were* together; *there was* no stranger with us in the house, save we two in the house.
- 1Ki 3:19 And this woman's child died in the night; because she overlaid it.
- 1Ki 3:20 And she arose at midnight, and took my son from beside me, while thine handmaid slept, and laid it in her bosom, and laid her dead child in my bosom.
- 1Ki 3:21 And when I rose in the morning to give my child suck, behold, it was dead: but when I had considered it in the morning, behold, it was not my son, which I did bear.

- 1Ki 3:22 And the other woman said, Nay; but the living *is* my son, and the dead *is* thy son. And this said, No; but the dead *is* thy son, and the living *is* my son. Thus they spake before the king.
- 1Ki 3:23 Then said the king, The one saith, This *is* my son that lives, and thy son *is* the dead: and the other saith, Nay; but thy son *is* the dead, and my son *is* the living.
- 1Ki 3:24 And the king said, Bring me a sword. And they brought a sword before the king.
- 1Ki 3:25 And the king said, Divide the living child in two, and give half to the one, and half to the other.
- 1Ki 3:26 Then spake the woman whose the living child *was* unto the king, for her bowels yearned upon her son, and she said, O my lord, give her the living child, and in no wise slay it. But the other said, Let it be neither mine nor thine, *but* divide *it*.
- 1Ki 3:27 Then the king answered and said, Give her the living child, and in no wise slay it: she *is* the mother thereof.
- 1Ki 3:28 And all Israel heard of the judgment which the king had judged; and they feared the king: for they saw that the wisdom of God *was* in him, to do judgment.

Tuesday – August 27th

1. How are we shown that we do not sanctify ourselves by our works?

➤ Acts 26:18 —

NOTE : ‘We must get closer to God and then Christ will be our Light, and the light of truth will reflect upon the world. We want to educate ourselves to talk of the truth, talk of heaven and heavenly things, converse of the Saviour’s love, and then we shall be fitting up for a holy heaven. If Christ, when He shall come, should find us with all the defects of character we have today, there will be no such thing as our getting into the courts of heaven, and there will be no chance for us to reform then. Christ does not promise to transform our characters then, after He shall come. We must seek righteous characters now. But if we have built up ourselves in our own righteousness, He does not change the character. The change must be here. We must wash our robes and make them white in the blood of the Lamb in this world, and then we shall have the white linen which is the righteousness of the saints. But if we go on in our sins, Christ can never take such to heaven. It is only those who are holy who can see a holy God.’ —*Sermons & Talks, volume 2, pages 24-25.*

‘It is a wicked pride that delights in the vanity of one’s own works, that boasts of one’s excellent qualities, seeking to make others seem inferior in order to exalt self, claiming more glory than the cold heart is willing to give to God. The disciples of Christ will heed the Master’s instruction. He has bidden us love one another even as He has loved us. Religion is founded upon love to God, which also leads us to love one another. It is full of gratitude, humility, long-suffering. It is self-sacrificing, forbearing, merciful, and forgiving. It sanctifies the whole life and extends its influence over others.’ —*Testimonies for the Church, volume 4, page 223.*

2. What kind of salvation did Jesus come to bring?

➤ Jude 1:24-25 —

NOTE : Jesus was not given His name because He would save His people from hell, but because He would save them from their sins. Many people want to be saved from hell; few want to be saved from their sins. They are willing to acknowledge Him as Saviour but not to submit to Him as Lord. Most want to enjoy the pleasure of sin and escape the penalty. The Saviour is only for those who want to escape from their sins, who really understand the Gospel invitation, offering the freedom to live right, and who truly want to be saved to righteousness.

‘He [Jesus] desired them to see a promise of deliverance from sin. As the blood of the slain lamb sheltered the homes of Israel, so the blood of Christ was to save their souls; but they could be saved through Christ only as by faith they should make His life their own.’ —*The Desire of Ages, page 82.*

3. Heaven’s Hotline

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Last Day Events

Tuesday, August 27th, 2024

Last Day Events, Chapter 8, pp. 250

“The Loud Cry”

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“The Seal of God and the Mark of the Beast”

August 27th

Oh, That God's Seal May Be Placed Upon Us!

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

Revelation 7:3

In a little while everyone who is a child of God will have His seal placed upon him. Oh, that it may be placed upon our foreheads! Who can endure the thought of being passed by when the angel goes forth to seal the servants of God in their foreheads?—*SDA Bible Commentary*, vol. 7, p. 969, 970 (1889).

If the believers in the truth are not sustained by their faith in these comparatively peaceful days, what will uphold them when the grand test comes and the decree goes forth against all those who will not worship the image of the beast and receive his mark in their foreheads or in their hands? This solemn period is not far off. Instead of becoming weak and irresolute, the people of God should be gathering strength and courage for the time of trouble.—*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 251 (1876).

Daily Scripture**Tuesday, August 27th, 2024****1st Kings Chapter 4****Solomon's Officials**

- 1Ki 4:1 So king Solomon was king over all Israel.
- 1Ki 4:2 And these *were* the princes which he had; Azariah the son of Zadok the priest,
- 1Ki 4:3 Elihoreph and Ahiah, the sons of Shisha, scribes; Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud, the recorder.
- 1Ki 4:4 And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada *was* over the host: and Zadok and Abiathar *were* the priests:
- 1Ki 4:5 And Azariah the son of Nathan *was* over the officers: and Zabud the son of Nathan *was* principal officer, *and* the king's friend:
- 1Ki 4:6 And Ahishar *was* over the household: and Adoniram the son of Abda *was* over the tribute.
- 1Ki 4:7 And Solomon had twelve officers over all Israel, which provided victuals for the king and his household: each man his month in a year made provision.
- 1Ki 4:8 And these *are* their names: The son of Hur, in mount Ephraim:
- 1Ki 4:9 The son of Dekar, in Makaz, and in Shalbim, and Bethshemesh, and Elonbethhanan:
- 1Ki 4:10 The son of Hesed, in Aruboth; to him *pertained* Sochoh, and all the land of Hepher:
- 1Ki 4:11 The son of Abinadab, in all the region of Dor; which had Taphath the daughter of Solomon to wife:
- 1Ki 4:12 Baana the son of Ahilud; *to him pertained* Taanach and Megiddo, and all Bethshean, which *is* by Zartanah beneath Jezreel, from Bethshean to Abelmeholah, *even unto the place that is* beyond Jokneam:
- 1Ki 4:13 The son of Geber, in Ramothgilead; to him *pertained* the towns of Jair the son of Manasseh, which *are* in Gilead; to him *also pertained* the region of Argob, which *is* in Bashan, threescore great cities with walls and brazen bars:
- 1Ki 4:14 Ahinadab the son of Iddo *had* Mahanaim:
- 1Ki 4:15 Ahimaaz *was* in Naphtali; he also took Basmath the daughter of Solomon to wife:
- 1Ki 4:16 Baanah the son of Hushai *was* in Asher and in Aloth:
- 1Ki 4:17 Jehoshaphat the son of Paruah, in Issachar:
- 1Ki 4:18 Shimei the son of Elah, in Benjamin:
- 1Ki 4:19 Geber the son of Uri *was* in the country of Gilead, *in* the country of Sihon king of the Amorites, and of Og king of Bashan; and *he was* the only officer which *was* in the land.

Solomon's Wealth and Wisdom

- 1Ki 4:20 Judah and Israel *were* many, as the sand which *is* by the sea in multitude, eating and drinking, and making merry.
- 1Ki 4:21 And Solomon reigned over all kingdoms from the river unto the land of the Philistines, and unto the border of Egypt: they brought presents, and served Solomon all the days of his life.
- 1Ki 4:22 And Solomon's provision for one day was thirty measures of fine flour, and threescore measures of meal,
- 1Ki 4:23 Ten fat oxen, and twenty oxen out of the pastures, and an hundred sheep, beside harts, and roebucks, and fallow deer, and fatted fowl.
- 1Ki 4:24 For he had dominion over all *the region* on this side the river, from Tiphshah even to Azzah, over all the kings on this side the river: and he had peace on all sides round about him.
- 1Ki 4:25 And Judah and Israel dwelt safely, every man under his vine and under his fig tree, from Dan even to Beersheba, all the days of Solomon.
- 1Ki 4:26 And Solomon had forty thousand stalls of horses for his chariots, and twelve thousand horsemen.
- 1Ki 4:27 And those officers provided victual for king Solomon, and for all that came unto king Solomon's table, every man in his month: they lacked nothing.

- 1Ki 4:28 Barley also and straw for the horses and dromedaries brought they unto the place where *the officers* were, every man according to his charge.
- 1Ki 4:29 And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding exceeding much, and largeness of heart, even as the sand that *is* on the sea shore.
- 1Ki 4:30 And Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the children of the east country, and all the wisdom of Egypt.
- 1Ki 4:31 For he was wiser than all men; than Ethan the Ezrahite, and Heman, and Chalcol, and Darda, the sons of Mahol: and his fame was in all nations round about.
- 1Ki 4:32 And he spake three thousand proverbs: and his songs were a thousand and five.
- 1Ki 4:33 And he spoke of trees, from the cedar tree that *is* in Lebanon even unto the hyssop that springs out of the wall: he spake also of beasts, and of fowl, and of creeping things, and of fishes.
- 1Ki 4:34 And there came of all people to hear the wisdom of Solomon, from all kings of the earth, which had heard of his wisdom.

Wednesday – August 28th

1. How does Jesus describe those who genuinely accept Him as Lord?

➤ **Matthew 7:21** —

NOTE : Simplistic evangelistic preaching has created the impression that the Gospel is primarily an insurance policy for the next world. The preacher faces his audience with the challenge: If you died tonight, would you go to heaven or hell? This may produce a fear of hell, but probably not ‘the fear of the Lord, which is the beginning of wisdom.’ The Bible is as much concerned with this world as the next. The apostles would be more likely to challenge their listeners with the question: If you were alive tomorrow, would you be living in the kingdom of Satan or the kingdom of God? They were more concerned to get their hearers on ‘the Way’ (Acts 18:25) than ‘over the line’. Their writings speak less of being born again than of being fully alive.

‘One of Satan’s most successful deceptions is to lead men to claim to be sanctified, while at the same time they are living in disobedience to God’s commandments. These are described by Jesus as those who will say, “Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Thy name? And in Thy name have cast out devils? And in Thy name done many wonderful works?” Yes, those who claim to be sanctified have a great deal to say about being saved by the blood of Jesus, but their sanctification is not through the truth as it is in Jesus. While claiming to believe in Him, and apparently doing wonderful works in His name, they ignore His Father’s law and serve as agents of the great adversary of souls to carry forward the work which he began in Eden, that of making plausible excuses for not obeying God implicitly. Their work of leading men to dishonour God by ignoring His law will one day be unfolded before them with its true results.’ —*Faith & Works*, 41-42.

2. What assurance do we have that the Lord is able to complete His part in the work of sanctification?

➤ **2 Timothy 1:12** —

➤ **Philippians 1:6** —

➤ **John 10:28-29** —

➤ **Romans 8:38-39** —

NOTE : ‘As the Elder Brother of our race He knows the necessities of those who, compassed with infirmity and living in a world of sin and temptation, still desire to serve Him. He knows that the messengers whom He sees fit to send are weak, erring men; but to all who give themselves wholly to His service He promises divine aid. His own example is an assurance that earnest, persevering supplication to God in faith, faith that leads to entire dependence upon God, and unreserved consecration to His work, will avail to bring to men the Holy Spirit’s aid in the battle against sin.’ —*Acts of the Apostles*, page 56.

3. Heaven’s Hotline

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Last Day Events***Wednesday, August 28th, 2024******Last Day Events, Chapter 8, pp. 251******“The Loud Cry”***

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“The Seal of God and the Mark of the Beast”**August 28th****What the Mark of the Beast Is**

And the smoke of their torment ascends up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receives the mark of his name.

Revelation 14:11

John was called to behold a people distinct from those who worship the beast or his image by keeping the first day of the week. The observance of this day is the mark of the beast.—*Testimonies for Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p.133 (1898).

The mark of the beast is the papal sabbath.—*Evangelism*, p. 234 (1899).

When the test comes, it will be clearly shown what the mark of the beast is. It is the keeping of Sunday.—*SDA Bible Commentary*, vol. 7, p. 980 (1900).

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.—*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 8, p. 117 (1904).

"He causes all, both small and great, . . . to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads."
[Revelation 13:16] Not only are men not to work with their hands on Sunday, but with their minds are they to acknowledge Sunday as the Sabbath.—*Special Testimony to Battle Creek Church* (Ph 86) 6, 7 (1897).

*Daily Scripture**Wednesday, August 28th, 2024***1st Kings Chapter 5****Preparations for Building the Temple**

- 1Ki 5:1 And Hiram king of Tyre sent his servants unto Solomon; for he had heard that they had anointed him king in the room of his father: for Hiram was ever a lover of David.
- 1Ki 5:2 And Solomon sent to Hiram, saying,
- 1Ki 5:3 Thou know how that David my father could not build an house unto the name of the LORD his God for the wars which were about him on every side, until the LORD put them under the soles of his feet.
- 1Ki 5:4 But now the LORD my God hath given me rest on every side, *so that there is* neither adversary nor evil occurrent.
- 1Ki 5:5 And, behold, I purpose to build an house unto the name of the LORD my God, as the LORD spake unto David my father, saying, Thy son, whom I will set upon thy throne in thy room, he shall build an house unto my name.
- 1Ki 5:6 Now therefore command thou that they hew me cedar trees out of Lebanon; and my servants shall be with thy servants: and unto thee will I give hire for thy servants according to all that thou shalt appoint: for thou know that *there is* not among us any that can skill to hew timber like unto the Sidonians.
- 1Ki 5:7 And it came to pass, when Hiram heard the words of Solomon, that he rejoiced greatly, and said, Blessed *be* the LORD this day, which hath given unto David a wise son over this great people.
- 1Ki 5:8 And Hiram sent to Solomon, saying, I have considered the things which thou sent to me for: *and* I will do all thy desire concerning timber of cedar, and concerning timber of fir.
- 1Ki 5:9 My servants shall bring *them* down from Lebanon unto the sea: and I will convey them by sea in floats unto the place that thou shalt appoint me, and will cause them to be discharged there, and thou shalt receive *them*: and thou shalt accomplish my desire, in giving food for my household.
- 1Ki 5:10 So Hiram gave Solomon cedar trees and fir trees *according to* all his desire.
- 1Ki 5:11 And Solomon gave Hiram twenty thousand measures of wheat *for* food to his household, and twenty measures of pure oil: thus gave Solomon to Hiram year by year.
- 1Ki 5:12 And the LORD gave Solomon wisdom, as he promised him: and there was peace between Hiram and Solomon; and they two made a league together.
- 1Ki 5:13 And king Solomon raised a levy out of all Israel; and the levy was thirty thousand men.
- 1Ki 5:14 And he sent them to Lebanon, ten thousand a month by courses: a month they were in Lebanon, *and* two months at home: and Adoniram *was* over the levy.
- 1Ki 5:15 And Solomon had threescore and ten thousand that bare burdens, and fourscore thousand hewers in the mountains;
- 1Ki 5:16 Beside the chief of Solomon's officers which *were* over the work, three thousand and three hundred, which ruled over the people that wrought in the work.
- 1Ki 5:17 And the king commanded, and they brought great stones, costly stones, *and* hewed stones, to lay the foundation of the house.
- 1Ki 5:18 And Solomon's builders and Hiram's builders did hew *them*, and the stonesquarers: so they prepared timber and stones to build the house.

Thursday – August 29th

1. What exhortations are we given to persevere?

- Acts 14:22 —
- Romans 11:22 —
- Colossians 1:23 —

NOTE: ‘God means we shall trust in Him and enjoy His goodness. He lays out day by day before us and we must have eyes and perceptive powers to take these things in. However great and glorious the full and perfect deliverance from evil we shall realise in heaven, it is not all to be kept for the time of final deliverance. God brings it into our present life. We need daily to cultivate faith in a present Saviour. Trusting in a power out of and above ourselves, exercising faith in unseen support and power which is waiting the demand of the needy and dependent, we can trust amid clouds as well as sunshine, singing of present deliverance and present enjoyment of His love. The life we now live must be by faith in the Son of God.’ —*This Day With God*, page 62.

2. Heaven’s Hotline



Last Day Events***Thursday, August 29th, 2024******Last Day Events, Chapter 8, pp. 252******“The Loud Cry”***

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“The Seal of God and the Mark of the Beast”**August 29th****When the Mark of the Beast Is Received**

Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the sabbath, to observe the sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant.

Exodus 31:16

No one has yet received the mark of the beast.—*Evangelism*, p. 234 (1899).

Sunday-keeping is not yet the mark of the beast, and will not be until the decree goes forth causing men to worship this idol sabbath. The time will come when this day will be the test, but that time has not come yet. —*SDA Bible Commentary*, p. 977 (1899).

God has given men the Sabbath as a sign between Him and them as a test of their loyalty. Those who, after the light regarding God's law comes to them, continue to disobey and exalt human laws above the law of God in the great crisis before us, will receive the mark of the beast.—*Evangelism*, p. 235 (1900).

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 Commentary*, p. 605 (1911).

*Daily Scripture**Thursday, August 29th, 2024***1st Kings Chapter 6****Solomon Builds the Temple**

- 1Ki 6:1 And it came to pass in the four hundred and eightieth year after the children of Israel were come out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month Zif, which *is* the second month, that he began to build the house of the LORD.
- 1Ki 6:2 And the house which king Solomon built for the LORD, the length thereof *was* threescore cubits, and the breadth thereof twenty *cubits*, and the height thereof thirty cubits.
- 1Ki 6:3 And the porch before the temple of the house, twenty cubits *was* the length thereof, according to the breadth of the house; *and* ten cubits *was* the breadth thereof before the house.
- 1Ki 6:4 And for the house he made windows of narrow lights.
- 1Ki 6:5 And against the wall of the house he built chambers round about, *against* the walls of the house round about, *both* of the temple and of the oracle: and he made chambers round about:
- 1Ki 6:6 The nethermost chamber *was* five cubits broad, and the middle *was* six cubits broad, and the third *was* seven cubits broad: for without *in the wall* of the house he made narrowed rests round about, that *the beams* should not be fastened in the walls of the house.
- 1Ki 6:7 And the house, when it was in building, was built of stone made ready before it was brought thither: so that there was neither hammer nor axe *nor* any tool of iron heard in the house, while it was in building.
- 1Ki 6:8 The door for the middle chamber *was* in the right side of the house: and they went up with winding stairs into the middle *chamber*, and out of the middle into the third.
- 1Ki 6:9 So he built the house, and finished it; and covered the house with beams and boards of cedar.
- 1Ki 6:10 And *then* he built chambers against all the house, five cubits high: and they rested on the house *with* timber of cedar.
- 1Ki 6:11 And the word of the LORD came to Solomon, saying,
- 1Ki 6:12 *Concerning* this house which thou art in building, if thou wilt walk in my statutes, and execute my judgments, and keep all my commandments to walk in them; then will I perform my word with thee, which I spake unto David thy father:
- 1Ki 6:13 And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will not forsake my people Israel.
- 1Ki 6:14 So Solomon built the house, and finished it.
- 1Ki 6:15 And he built the walls of the house within with boards of cedar, both the floor of the house, and the walls of the ceiling: *and* he covered *them* on the inside with wood, and covered the floor of the house with planks of fir.
- 1Ki 6:16 And he built twenty cubits on the sides of the house, both the floor and the walls with boards of cedar: he even built *them* for it within, *even* for the oracle, *even* for the most holy *place*.
- 1Ki 6:17 And the house, that *is*, the temple before it, was forty cubits *long*.
- 1Ki 6:18 And the cedar of the house within *was* carved with knops and open flowers: all *was* cedar; there was no stone seen.
- 1Ki 6:19 And the oracle he prepared in the house within, to set there the ark of the covenant of the LORD.
- 1Ki 6:20 And the oracle in the forepart *was* twenty cubits in length, and twenty cubits in breadth, and twenty cubits in the height thereof: and he overlaid it with pure gold; and *so* covered the altar *which was of* cedar.
- 1Ki 6:21 So Solomon overlaid the house within with pure gold: and he made a partition by the chains of gold before the oracle; and he overlaid it with gold.
- 1Ki 6:22 And the whole house he overlaid with gold, until he had finished all the house: also the whole altar that *was* by the oracle he overlaid with gold.
- 1Ki 6:23 And within the oracle he made two cherubims *of* olive tree, *each* ten cubits high.

- 1Ki 6:24 And five cubits *was* the one wing of the cherub, and five cubits the other wing of the cherub: from the uttermost part of the one wing unto the uttermost part of the other *were* ten cubits.
- 1Ki 6:25 And the other cherub *was* ten cubits: both the cherubims *were* of one measure and one size.
- 1Ki 6:26 The height of the one cherub *was* ten cubits, and so *was it* of the other cherub.
- 1Ki 6:27 And he set the cherubims within the inner house: and they stretched forth the wings of the cherubims, so that the wing of the one touched the *one* wall, and the wing of the other cherub touched the other wall; and their wings touched one another in the midst of the house.
- 1Ki 6:28 And he overlaid the cherubims with gold.
- 1Ki 6:29 And he carved all the walls of the house round about with carved figures of cherubims and palm trees and open flowers, within and without.
- 1Ki 6:30 And the floor of the house he overlaid with gold, within and without.
- 1Ki 6:31 And for the entering of the oracle he made doors *of* olive tree: the lintel *and* side posts *were* a fifth part *of the wall*.
- 1Ki 6:32 The two doors also *were of* olive tree; and he carved upon them carvings of cherubims and palm trees and open flowers, and overlaid *them* with gold, and spread gold upon the cherubims, and upon the palm trees.
- 1Ki 6:33 So also made he for the door of the temple posts *of* olive tree, a fourth part *of the wall*.
- 1Ki 6:34 And the two doors *were of* fir tree: the two leaves of the one door *were* folding, and the two leaves of the other door *were* folding.
- 1Ki 6:35 And he carved *thereon* cherubims and palm trees and open flowers: and covered *them* with gold fitted upon the carved work.
- 1Ki 6:36 And he built the inner court with three rows of hewed stone, and a row of cedar beams.
- 1Ki 6:37 In the fourth year was the foundation of the house of the LORD laid, in the month Zif:
- 1Ki 6:38 And in the eleventh year, in the month Bul, which *is* the eighth month, was the house finished throughout all the parts thereof, and according to all the fashion of it. So was he seven years in building it.

*Preparation Day – August 30th***1. How does the Lord identify those who are sanctified?**

➤ **Revelation 14:12** —

NOTE : ‘The work of overcoming is a great work. Shall we take hold of it with energy and perseverance? Unless we do, our “filthy garments” will not be taken from us. We need never expect that these will be torn from us violently; we must first show a desire to rid ourselves of them. We must seek to separate sin from us, relying upon the merits of the blood of Christ; and then in the day of affliction, when the enemy presses us, we shall walk among the angels.’ —*Maranatha, The Lord is Coming*, page 95.

2. Heaven’s Hotline

➤

Last Day Events***Preparation Day, August 30th, 2024******Last Day Events, Chapter 8, pp. 253*****“The Loud Cry”****--****“The Seal of God and the Mark of the Beast”****August 30th****Enforcement of Sunday Observance Is the Test**

Now if ye be ready that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of music, ye fall down and worship the image which I have made; well: but if ye worship not, ye shall be cast the same hour into the midst of a burning fiery furnace; and who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?

Daniel 3:15

None are condemned until they have had the light and have seen the obligation of the fourth commandment. But when the decree shall go forth enforcing the counterfeit sabbath, and the loud cry of the third angel shall warn men against the worship of the beast and his image, the line will be clearly drawn between the false and the true. Then those who still continue in transgression will receive the mark of the beast.—*Evangelism*, p. 234, 235 (1899).

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 honour 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 honour 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*.” And it is not until the issue is thus plainly set before the people, and they are brought to choose between the commandments of God and the commandments of men, that those who continue in transgression will receive “*the mark of the beast*.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 449 (1911).

Daily Scripture**Preparation Day, August 30th, 2024****1st Kings Chapter 7****Solomon Builds His Palace**

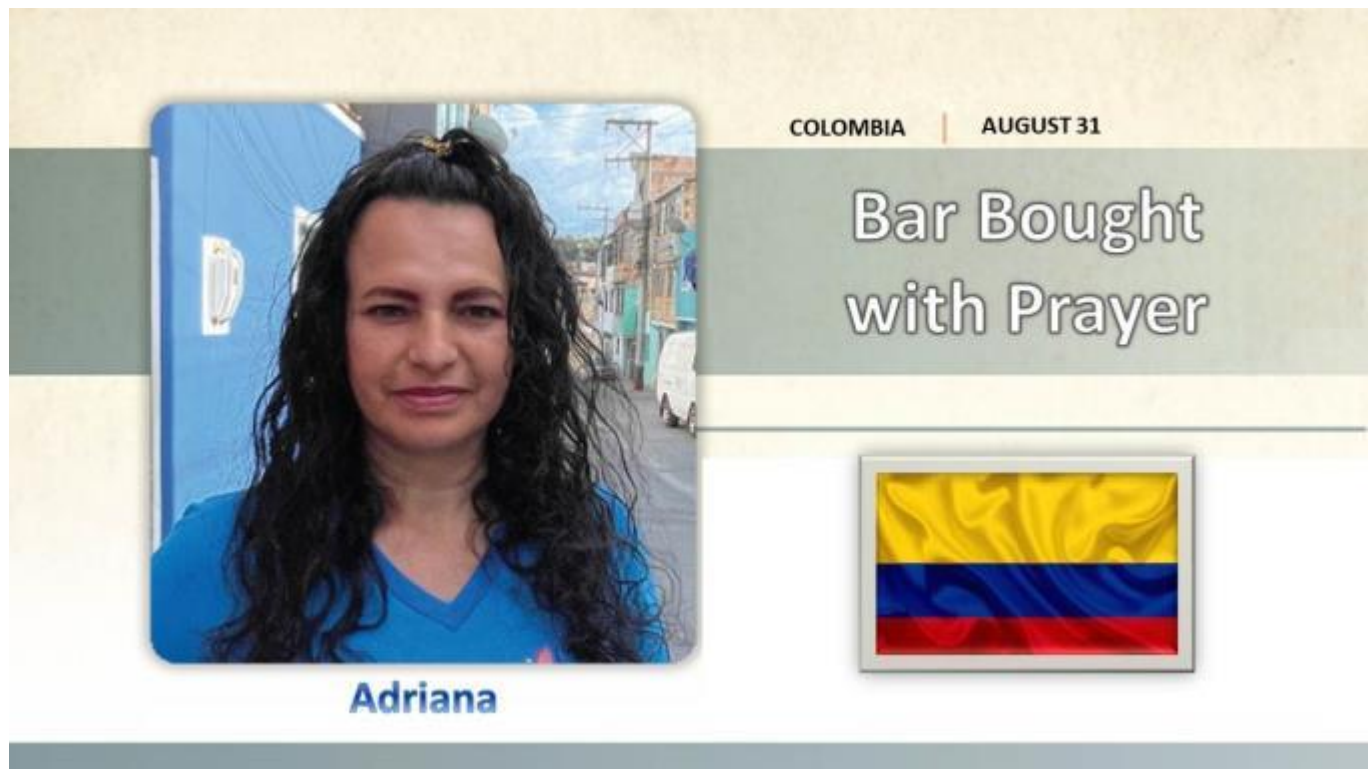
- 1Ki 7:1 But Solomon was building his own house thirteen years, and he finished all his house.
- 1Ki 7:2 He built also the house of the forest of Lebanon; the length thereof *was* an hundred cubits, and the breadth thereof fifty cubits, and the height thereof thirty cubits, upon four rows of cedar pillars, with cedar beams upon the pillars.
- 1Ki 7:3 And *it was* covered with cedar above upon the beams, that *lay* on forty five pillars, fifteen *in* a row.
- 1Ki 7:4 And *there were* windows *in* three rows, and light *was* against light *in* three ranks.
- 1Ki 7:5 And all the doors and posts *were* square, with the windows: and light *was* against light *in* three ranks.
- 1Ki 7:6 And he made a porch of pillars; the length thereof *was* fifty cubits, and the breadth thereof thirty cubits: and the porch *was* before them: and the *other* pillars and the thick beam *were* before them.
- 1Ki 7:7 Then he made a porch for the throne where he might judge, *even* the porch of judgment: and *it was* covered with cedar from one side of the floor to the other.
- 1Ki 7:8 And his house where he dwelt *had* another court within the porch, *which* was of the like work. Solomon made also an house for Pharaoh's daughter, whom he had taken *to wife*, like unto this porch.
- 1Ki 7:9 All these *were of* costly stones, according to the measures of hewed stones, sawed with saws, within and without, even from the foundation unto the coping, and *so* on the outside toward the great court.
- 1Ki 7:10 And the foundation *was of* costly stones, even great stones, stones of ten cubits, and stones of eight cubits.
- 1Ki 7:11 And above *were* costly stones, after the measures of hewed stones, and cedars.
- 1Ki 7:12 And the great court round about *was* with three rows of hewed stones, and a row of cedar beams, both for the inner court of the house of the LORD, and for the porch of the house.

The Temple Furnishings

- 1Ki 7:13 And king Solomon sent and fetched Hiram out of Tyre.
- 1Ki 7:14 He *was* a widow's son of the tribe of Naphtali, and his father *was* a man of Tyre, a worker in brass: and he was filled with wisdom, and understanding, and cunning to work all works in brass. And he came to king Solomon, and wrought all his work.
- 1Ki 7:15 For he cast two pillars of brass, of eighteen cubits high apiece: and a line of twelve cubits did compass either of them about.
- 1Ki 7:16 And he made two chapiters *of* molten brass, to set upon the tops of the pillars: the height of the one chapter *was* five cubits, and the height of the other chapter *was* five cubits:
- 1Ki 7:17 And nets of checker work, and wreaths of chain work, for the chapiters which *were* upon the top of the pillars; seven for the one chapter, and seven for the other chapter.
- 1Ki 7:18 And he made the pillars, and two rows round about upon the one network, to cover the chapiters that *were* upon the top, with pomegranates: and so did he for the other chapter.
- 1Ki 7:19 And the chapiters that *were* upon the top of the pillars *were* of lily work in the porch, four cubits.
- 1Ki 7:20 And the chapiters upon the two pillars *had pomegranates* also above, over against the belly which *was* by the network: and the pomegranates *were* two hundred in rows round about upon the other chapter.
- 1Ki 7:21 And he set up the pillars in the porch of the temple: and he set up the right pillar, and called the name thereof Jachin: and he set up the left pillar, and called the name thereof Boaz.
- 1Ki 7:22 And upon the top of the pillars *was* lily work: so was the work of the pillars finished.
- 1Ki 7:23 And he made a molten sea, ten cubits from the one brim to the other: *it was* round all about, and his height *was* five cubits: and a line of thirty cubits did compass it round about.
- 1Ki 7:24 And under the brim of it round about *there were* knops compassing it, ten in a cubit, compassing the sea round about: the knops *were* cast in two rows, when it was cast.

- 1Ki 7:25 It stood upon twelve oxen, three looking toward the north, and three looking toward the west, and three looking toward the south, and three looking toward the east: and the sea *was set* above upon them, and all their hinder parts *were* inward.
- 1Ki 7:26 And it *was* an hand breadth thick, and the brim thereof was wrought like the brim of a cup, with flowers of lilies: it contained two thousand baths.
- 1Ki 7:27 And he made ten bases of brass; four cubits *was* the length of one base, and four cubits the breadth thereof, and three cubits the height of it.
- 1Ki 7:28 And the work of the bases *was* on this *manner*: they had borders, and the borders *were* between the ledges:
- 1Ki 7:29 And on the borders that *were* between the ledges *were* lions, oxen, and cherubims: and upon the ledges *there was* a base above: and beneath the lions and oxen *were* certain additions made of thin work.
- 1Ki 7:30 And every base had four brasen wheels, and plates of brass: and the four corners thereof had undersetters: under the laver *were* undersetters molten, at the side of every addition.
- 1Ki 7:31 And the mouth of it within the chapter and above *was* a cubit: but the mouth thereof *was* round *after* the work of the base, a cubit and an half: and also upon the mouth of it *were* engravings with their borders, foursquare, not round.
- 1Ki 7:32 And under the borders *were* four wheels; and the axletrees of the wheels *were joined* to the base: and the height of a wheel *was* a cubit and half a cubit.
- 1Ki 7:33 And the work of the wheels *was* like the work of a chariot wheel: their axletrees, and their naves, and their felloes, and their spokes, *were* all molten.
- 1Ki 7:34 And *there were* four undersetters to the four corners of one base: *and* the undersetters *were* of the very base itself.
- 1Ki 7:35 And in the top of the base *was there* a round compass of half a cubit high: and on the top of the base the ledges thereof and the borders thereof *were* of the same.
- 1Ki 7:36 For on the plates of the ledges thereof, and on the borders thereof, he graved cherubims, lions, and palm trees, according to the proportion of every one, and additions round about.
- 1Ki 7:37 After this *manner* he made the ten bases: all of them had one casting, one measure, *and* one size.
- 1Ki 7:38 Then made he ten lavers of brass: one laver contained forty baths: *and* every laver was four cubits: *and* upon every one of the ten bases one laver.
- 1Ki 7:39 And he put five bases on the right side of the house, and five on the left side of the house: and he set the sea on the right side of the house eastward over against the south.
- 1Ki 7:40 And Hiram made the lavers, and the shovels, and the basons. So Hiram made an end of doing all the work that he made king Solomon for the house of the LORD:
- 1Ki 7:41 The two pillars, and the *two* bowls of the chapters that *were* on the top of the two pillars; and the two networks, to cover the two bowls of the chapters which *were* upon the top of the pillars;
- 1Ki 7:42 And four hundred pomegranates for the two networks, *even* two rows of pomegranates for one network, to cover the two bowls of the chapters that *were* upon the pillars;
- 1Ki 7:43 And the ten bases, and ten lavers on the bases;
- 1Ki 7:44 And one sea, and twelve oxen under the sea;
- 1Ki 7:45 And the pots, and the shovels, and the basons: and all these vessels, which Hiram made to king Solomon for the house of the LORD, *were of* bright brass.
- 1Ki 7:46 In the plain of Jordan did the king cast them, in the clay ground between Succoth and Zarthan.
- 1Ki 7:47 And Solomon left all the vessels *unweighed*, because they were exceeding many: neither was the weight of the brass found out.
- 1Ki 7:48 And Solomon made all the vessels that *pertained* unto the house of the LORD: the altar of gold, and the table of gold, whereupon the shewbread *was*,
- 1Ki 7:49 And the candlesticks of pure gold, five on the right *side*, and five on the left, before the oracle, with the flowers, and the lamps, and the tongs *of* gold,
- 1Ki 7:50 And the bowls, and the snuffers, and the basons, and the spoons, and the censers *of* pure gold; and the hinges *of* gold, *both* for the doors of the inner house, the most holy *place*, *and* for the doors of the house, *to wit*, of the temple.

1Ki 7:51 So was ended all the work that king Solomon made for the house of the LORD. And Solomon brought in the things which David his father had dedicated; *even* the silver, and the gold, and the vessels, did he put among the treasures of the house of the LORD.

*Adult Mission Story**Preparation Day, May 31st, 2024*

Adriana was adept at planting churches in Colombia. The 35-year-old wife and mother planted six churches over 15 years, and she was ready to help plant church No. 7 in a poor neighbourhood in the south of Colombia's sprawling capital, Bogotá.

But no one seemed to be able to find an affordable building in a prime location.

The seed for the church was planted when Wilinton, [WILL-ing-ton] a former alcoholic in the neighbourhood, gave his heart to Jesus and started a small Bible-study group in his home. The group outgrew his home and moved several times. Now 50 people were worshipping together every Sabbath, and it was time for them to have a church building of their own.

Adriana belonged to another church that wanted to help Wilinton's congregation plant the church. She looked at five buildings and found nothing.

Then Wilinton suggested a bar that he had frequented before he got baptized. The bar was right in the middle of the neighbourhood, and it was up for sale. But the asking price was too high.

Adriana met with the bar owner. She explained that church members wanted to buy the building but didn't have the funds.

"Could you please wait for a year while we raise the money?" she asked.

The owner didn't want to wait, and he shook his head.

Adriana begged him to reconsider, but he refused. However, he added, "If your plan is from God, this building will be yours."

Adriana and other church members prayed to God for help, and they started raising money.

Then a potential buyer came to take a look at the building. He liked what he saw, and he agreed to buy it.

Church members wondered if they would lose the building. They prayed for God's will to be done.

The potential buyer left and never returned with the money for the building.

The building remained up for sale.

Then another buyer visited the building and offered to buy it. It looked like the sale would go through. Church members again prayed for God's will to be done, and the buyer didn't return with the money.

The bar owner couldn't understand why his building wasn't selling. He reduced the price. Then he reduced it again. But still, he couldn't find a buyer.

Adriana was convinced that God had a plan to turn the bar into a church and center of influence. The center of influence would teach life skills to people in the community and help those who were struggling with alcoholism.

Adriana visited the bar owner again.

"You won't sell this building," she said, boldly. "You will sell it to us because it will be a place that will help the community and glorify God."

A year passed, and church members had gathered enough money to buy the building at the lower asking price. A church leader visited the owner to finalize the sale.

The owner expressed relief that he could finally sell the building.

"I haven't been able to sell this building because those Adventists have been praying to buy it," he said.

Two weeks later, the building was sold to the Adventist Church. The final, reduced price was half the market value of similar buildings in the neighbourhood.

Today, Adriana praises God for the new church and center of influence.

"We all prayed for this place," she said. "When God has a plan, no one can change it."

This mission story provides an inside look at life in Colombia and missional challenges there. Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help open two centers of influence to help children who are at risk of alcohol and drug abuse in Colombia. Thank you for planning a generous offering on September 28.

By Andrew McChesney

LESSON 10

“I HAVE SET BEFORE YOU LIFE AND DEATH”

August 31 — September 6

MEMORY VERSE : ‘I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live: that thou may love the LORD thy God, and that thou may obey His voice, and that thou may cleave unto Him: for He is thy life, and the length of thy days.’ [Deuteronomy 30:19-20]

STUDY HELP : ✓ Selected Messages, book 1, pages 140-141

SCRIPTURE : Acts 26:9-19

LESSON AIM : To compare and contrast the lives of two born-again men named Saul.

INTRODUCTION : ‘If the sinner or backslider settles himself in sin, the light of heaven may flash about him to no purpose, as it did about Saul when the bewitching power of the world’s deception was upon him. Unless the human agent inclines his will to do the will of God, as finally Paul did, the light will shine in vain, and a thousand-fold more light and evidence would do no good.’ — *Bible Echo*, November 1, 1893.

Sabbath – August 31st

1. How are we told that Saul was born again?

➤ 1 Samuel 10:9 —

NOTE : ‘Saul was not left alone to battle with his old, natural tendencies. God gave him another heart. Through His servant He had declared: “The Spirit of the Lord will come upon thee, and thou shalt prophesy with them, and thou shalt be turned into another man.

And let it be, when these signs are come unto thee, that thou do as occasion serve thee; for God is with thee.” The Holy Spirit came upon Saul, and he prophesied. Thus, with a new heart, under the moulding influence of the Spirit of God, he entered into the responsible position of king of Israel.’ Youth’s Instructor, November 10, 1898. God gave him another heart; and all that Samuel had said came to pass. The heart of Saul was turned to the Lord, his mind was enlarged, and he had the blessing of spiritual understanding. He felt that the strength of Israel was the Lord God, even Jehovah, and in Him he could have courage, fortitude, and resolution to govern wisely. It now depended upon Saul to work out the salvation that God had wrought within him.’ — *Signs of the Times*, May 11, 1888.

2. Heaven’s Hotline

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E. G. W. Study Help 1*Sabbath, August 31st, 2024***Selected Messages****Book 1, Chapter 36, p. 140-141****A Blessing Turned Into a Curse**

God has been testing the fidelity of His people, proving them to see what use they would make of His intrusted precious blessing. This blessing came from our Intercessor and Advocate in the heavenly courts; but Satan was ready to enter any avenue that was open for him, in order that he might turn the light and blessing into darkness and cursing. {1SM 140.1}

How may the blessing be turned into a curse? By persuading the human agent not to cherish the light, or not to reveal to the world that it has been effective in transforming the character. Imbued with the Holy Spirit, the human agent consecrates himself to cooperate with divine agencies. He bears the yoke of Christ, lifts his burdens, and works in Christ's line to gain precious victories. He walks in the light as Christ is in the light. The scripture is fulfilled to him, "We all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory even as by the Spirit of the Lord" (2 Corinthians 3:18). {1SM 140.2}

Another year has now passed into eternity with its burden of record; and the light which shone from heaven upon you was to prepare you to arise and shine, to show forth the praises of God to the world as His commandment-keeping people. You were to be living witnesses; but if no special endeavour of a high and holy character bears testimony before the world, if no higher effort has been made than that which is seen in the popular churches of the day, then the name of God has not been honoured, and His truth has not been magnified before the world, by presenting divine credentials in the people who have received great light. If they have had no greater appreciation of the manifest power of God than to eat and drink, and rise up to play, as did ancient Israel, then how can the Lord trust His people with rich and gracious manifestations? If they act directly contrary in almost every respect to the known will of God, and are found in carelessness, in levity, in selfishness, in ambition and pride, corrupting their way before the Lord, how can He give them another outpouring of the Holy Spirit? {1SM 140.3}

God has the richest blessing for His people; but He cannot bestow it until they know how to treat the precious gift in showing forth the praises of Him who has called them out of darkness into His marvellous light. "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 12:1, 2). A portion of the joy which was set before Christ, was the joy of seeing His truth armed with the omnipotent power of the Holy Spirit, impressing His image upon the life and character of His followers. {1SM 141.1}

Divine intelligences cooperate with human agencies as they seek to magnify the law and make it honourable. The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul. 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 favoured 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. "We are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building" (1 Corinthians 3:9). {1SM 141.2}

What has the rich blessing of God done for those who were humble and contrite in heart to receive it? Has the

blessing been cherished? Have the receivers been showing forth the praises of Him who has called them out of darkness into His marvellous light? There are some who are already questioning the work that was so good, and that should have been most highly appreciated. They are looking upon it as a certain species of fanaticism. { 1SM 141.3 }

Last Day Events

Sabbath, August 31st, 2024

Last Day Events, Chapter 8, pp. 254

“The Loud Cry”

--

“The Seal of God and the Mark of the Beast”

August 31st

No One Knows When Probation Will Close

Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.

Matthew 24:42

God has not revealed to us the time when this message will close or when probation will have an end. Those things that are revealed we shall accept for ourselves and for our children, but let us not seek to know that which has been kept secret in the councils of the Almighty. . .

Letters have come to me asking me if I have any special light as to the time when probation will close, and I answer that I have only this message to bear, that it is now time to work while the day lasts, for the night cometh in which no man can work.—*Selected Messages, Book 1, p. 191 (1894)*.

Daily Scripture**Sabbath, August 31st, 2024****1st Kings Chapter 8****The Ark Brought into the Temple**

- 1Ki 8:1 Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel, and all the heads of the tribes, the chief of the fathers of the children of Israel, unto king Solomon in Jerusalem, that they might bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of the city of David, which *is* Zion.
- 1Ki 8:2 And all the men of Israel assembled themselves unto king Solomon at the feast in the month Ethanim, which *is* the seventh month.
- 1Ki 8:3 And all the elders of Israel came, and the priests took up the ark.
- 1Ki 8:4 And they brought up the ark of the LORD, and the tabernacle of the congregation, and all the holy vessels that *were* in the tabernacle, even those did the priests and the Levites bring up.
- 1Ki 8:5 And king Solomon, and all the congregation of Israel, that were assembled unto him, *were* with him before the ark, sacrificing sheep and oxen, that could not be told nor numbered for multitude.
- 1Ki 8:6 And the priests brought in the ark of the covenant of the LORD unto his place, into the oracle of the house, to the most holy *place*, *even* under the wings of the cherubims.
- 1Ki 8:7 For the cherubims spread forth *their* two wings over the place of the ark, and the cherubims covered the ark and the staves thereof above.
- 1Ki 8:8 And they drew out the staves, that the ends of the staves were seen out in the holy *place* before the oracle, and they were not seen without: and there they are unto this day.
- 1Ki 8:9 *There was* nothing in the ark save the two tables of stone, which Moses put there at Horeb, when the LORD made *a covenant* with the children of Israel, when they came out of the land of Egypt.
- 1Ki 8:10 And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy *place*, that the cloud filled the house of the LORD,
- 1Ki 8:11 So that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of the LORD.

Solomon Blesses the Lord

- 1Ki 8:12 Then spake Solomon, The LORD said that he would dwell in the thick darkness.
- 1Ki 8:13 I have surely built thee an house to dwell in, a settled place for thee to abide in for ever.
- 1Ki 8:14 And the king turned his face about, and blessed all the congregation of Israel: (and all the congregation of Israel stood;)
- 1Ki 8:15 And he said, Blessed *be* the LORD God of Israel, which spake with his mouth unto David my father, and hath with his hand fulfilled *it*, saying,
- 1Ki 8:16 Since the day that I brought forth my people Israel out of Egypt, I chose no city out of all the tribes of Israel to build an house, that my name might be therein; but I chose David to be over my people Israel.
- 1Ki 8:17 And it was in the heart of David my father to build an house for the name of the LORD God of Israel.
- 1Ki 8:18 And the LORD said unto David my father, Whereas it was in thine heart to build an house unto my name, thou didst well that it was in thine heart.
- 1Ki 8:19 Nevertheless thou shalt not build the house; but thy son that shall come forth out of thy loins, he shall build the house unto my name.
- 1Ki 8:20 And the LORD hath performed his word that he spake, and I am risen up in the room of David my father, and sit on the throne of Israel, as the LORD promised, and have built an house for the name of the LORD God of Israel.
- 1Ki 8:21 And I have set there a place for the ark, wherein *is* the covenant of the LORD, which he made with our fathers, when he brought them out of the land of Egypt.

Solomon's Prayer of Dedication

- 1Ki 8:22 And Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the congregation of Israel, and spread forth his hands toward heaven:
- 1Ki 8:23 And he said, LORD God of Israel, *there is* no God like thee, in heaven above, or on earth beneath, who keep covenant and mercy with thy servants that walk before thee with all their heart:
- 1Ki 8:24 Who hast kept with thy servant David my father that thou promised him: thou spoke also with thy mouth, and hast fulfilled *it* with thine hand, as *it is* this day.
- 1Ki 8:25 Therefore now, LORD God of Israel, keep with thy servant David my father that thou promised him, saying, There shall not fail thee a man in my sight to sit on the throne of Israel; so that thy children take heed to their way, that they walk before me as thou hast walked before me.
- 1Ki 8:26 And now, O God of Israel, let thy word, I pray thee, be verified, which thou spoke unto thy servant David my father.
- 1Ki 8:27 But will God indeed dwell on the earth? behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded?
- 1Ki 8:28 Yet have thou respect unto the prayer of thy servant, and to his supplication, O LORD my God, to hearken unto the cry and to the prayer, which thy servant prays before thee today:
- 1Ki 8:29 That thine eyes may be open toward this house night and day, *even* toward the place of which thou hast said, My name shall be there: that thou may hearken unto the prayer which thy servant shall make toward this place.
- 1Ki 8:30 And hearken thou to the supplication of thy servant, and of thy people Israel, when they shall pray toward this place: and hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place: and when thou hear, forgive.
- 1Ki 8:31 If any man trespass against his neighbour, and an oath be laid upon him to cause him to swear, and the oath come before thine altar in this house:
- 1Ki 8:32 Then hear thou in heaven, and do, and judge thy servants, condemning the wicked, to bring his way upon his head; and justifying the righteous, to give him according to his righteousness.
- 1Ki 8:33 When thy people Israel be smitten down before the enemy, because they have sinned against thee, and shall turn again to thee, and confess thy name, and pray, and make supplication unto thee in this house:
- 1Ki 8:34 Then hear thou in heaven, and forgive the sin of thy people Israel, and bring them again unto the land which thou gave unto their fathers.
- 1Ki 8:35 When heaven is shut up, and there is no rain, because they have sinned against thee; if they pray toward this place, and confess thy name, and turn from their sin, when thou afflict them:
- 1Ki 8:36 Then hear thou in heaven, and forgive the sin of thy servants, and of thy people Israel, that thou teach them the good way wherein they should walk, and give rain upon thy land, which thou hast given to thy people for an inheritance.
- 1Ki 8:37 If there be in the land famine, if there be pestilence, blasting, mildew, locust, *or* if there be caterpillar; if their enemy besiege them in the land of their cities; whatsoever plague, whatsoever sickness *there be*;
- 1Ki 8:38 What prayer and supplication soever be *made* by any man, *or* by all thy people Israel, which shall know every man the plague of his own heart, and spread forth his hands toward this house:
- 1Ki 8:39 Then hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place, and forgive, and do, and give to every man according to his ways, whose heart thou know; (for thou, *even* thou only, know the hearts of all the children of men;)
- 1Ki 8:40 That they may fear thee all the days that they live in the land which thou gave unto our fathers.
- 1Ki 8:41 Moreover concerning a stranger, that *is* not of thy people Israel, but cometh out of a far country for thy name's sake;
- 1Ki 8:42 (For they shall hear of thy great name, and of thy strong hand, and of thy stretched out arm;) when he shall come and pray toward this house;
- 1Ki 8:43 Hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place, and do according to all that the stranger call to thee for: that all people of the earth may know thy name, to fear thee, as *do* thy people Israel; and that they may know that this house, which I have builded, is called by thy name.

- 1Ki 8:44 If thy people go out to battle against their enemy, whithersoever thou shalt send them, and shall pray unto the LORD toward the city which thou hast chosen, and *toward* the house that I have built for thy name:
- 1Ki 8:45 Then hear thou in heaven their prayer and their supplication, and maintain their cause.
- 1Ki 8:46 If they sin against thee, (for *there is* no man that sins not,) and thou be angry with them, and deliver them to the enemy, so that they carry them away captives unto the land of the enemy, far or near;
- 1Ki 8:47 *Yet* if they shall bethink themselves in the land whither they were carried captives, and repent, and make supplication unto thee in the land of them that carried them captives, saying, We have sinned, and have done perversely, we have committed wickedness;
- 1Ki 8:48 And *so* return unto thee with all their heart, and with all their soul, in the land of their enemies, which led them away captive, and pray unto thee toward their land, which thou gave unto their fathers, the city which thou hast chosen, and the house which I have built for thy name:
- 1Ki 8:49 Then hear thou their prayer and their supplication in heaven thy dwelling place, and maintain their cause,
- 1Ki 8:50 And forgive thy people that have sinned against thee, and all their transgressions wherein they have transgressed against thee, and give them compassion before them who carried them captive, that they may have compassion on them:
- 1Ki 8:51 For they *be* thy people, and thine inheritance, which thou brought forth out of Egypt, from the midst of the furnace of iron:
- 1Ki 8:52 That thine eyes may be open unto the supplication of thy servant, and unto the supplication of thy people Israel, to hearken unto them in all that they call for unto thee.
- 1Ki 8:53 For thou didst separate them from among all the people of the earth, *to be* thine inheritance, as thou spoke by the hand of Moses thy servant, when thou brought our fathers out of Egypt, O Lord GOD.

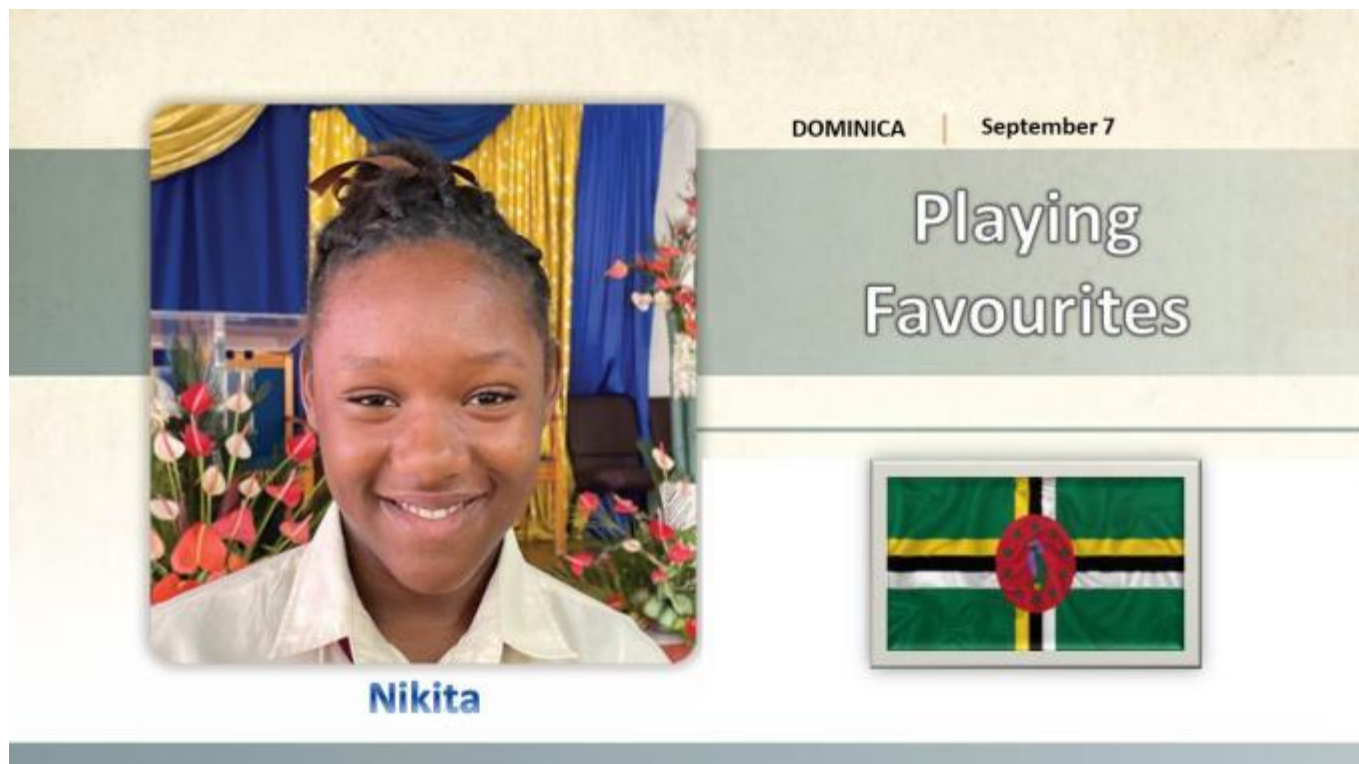
Solomon's Benediction

- 1Ki 8:54 And it was *so*, that when Solomon had made an end of praying all this prayer and supplication unto the LORD, he arose from before the altar of the LORD, from kneeling on his knees with his hands spread up to heaven.
- 1Ki 8:55 And he stood, and blessed all the congregation of Israel with a loud voice, saying,
- 1Ki 8:56 Blessed *be* the LORD, that hath given rest unto his people Israel, according to all that he promised: there hath not failed one word of all his good promise, which he promised by the hand of Moses his servant.
- 1Ki 8:57 The LORD our God be with us, as he was with our fathers: let him not leave us, nor forsake us:
- 1Ki 8:58 That he may incline our hearts unto him, to walk in all his ways, and to keep his commandments, and his statutes, and his judgments, which he commanded our fathers.
- 1Ki 8:59 And let these my words, wherewith I have made supplication before the LORD, be nigh unto the LORD our God day and night, that he maintain the cause of his servant, and the cause of his people Israel at all times, as the matter shall require:
- 1Ki 8:60 That all the people of the earth may know that the LORD *is* God, *and that there is* none else.
- 1Ki 8:61 Let your heart therefore be perfect with the LORD our God, to walk in his statutes, and to keep his commandments, as at this day.

Solomon's Sacrifices

- 1Ki 8:62 And the king, and all Israel with him, offered sacrifice before the LORD.
- 1Ki 8:63 And Solomon offered a sacrifice of peace offerings, which he offered unto the LORD, two and twenty thousand oxen, and an hundred and twenty thousand sheep. So the king and all the children of Israel dedicated the house of the LORD.
- 1Ki 8:64 The same day did the king hallow the middle of the court that *was* before the house of the LORD: for there he offered burnt offerings, and meat offerings, and the fat of the peace offerings: because the brasen altar that *was* before the LORD *was* too little to receive the burnt offerings, and meat offerings, and the fat of the peace offerings.

- 1Ki 8:65 And at that time Solomon held a feast, and all Israel with him, a great congregation, from the entering in of Hamath unto the river of Egypt, before the LORD our God, seven days and seven days, *even* fourteen days.
- 1Ki 8:66 On the eighth day he sent the people away: and they blessed the king, and went unto their tents joyful and glad of heart for all the goodness that the LORD had done for David his servant, and for Israel his people.

*Children's Mission Story**Sabbath, August 31st, 2024*

Nothing seemed fair the year that Nikita was in the second grade.

Father was a medical doctor, and he had to work far away from the Seventh-day Adventist school where Nikita had gone to first grade on the island of Dominica. So, Nikita had to go to a new school for second grade.

Mother was far away in Cuba, studying to become a medical doctor. So, Nikita could only talk to her by phone — and not every day because Mother was very, very busy.

The problems started during the first week of second grade. The school secretary was Nikita's older cousin, and she treated Nikita differently than the other children.

When Nikita arrived at school, she didn't have the dark-brown uniform that all the other children wore. She wore her regular clothes. The school secretary didn't say anything about her not wearing the uniform.

But several other children also came to school in their regular clothes, and the school secretary noticed. She scolded them, saying, "You always wear the wrong clothes!"

Then Nikita came to school late one day. The school secretary didn't say anything. But several other children also arrived late, and she noticed. She scolded them, saying, "You always come to school late!"

Nikita and the other children ran and made a lot of noise on the playground before school started. The school secretary didn't say anything to Nikita. But she scolded the other children, saying, "You're always making noise, and you are always running up and down!"

Soon the children noticed that the school secretary was scolding them but never scolding Nikita.

“You’re getting away with things,” one boy said. “You can do whatever you want.”

“The school secretary is choosing favourites,” said another.

Their words hurt Nikita, and she didn’t think it was fair. “I’ll get you in trouble if talk that way,” she said.

But the children laughed at her.

“You can’t do anything,” said one.

“You’re too small and weak,” said another.

Nikita told a teacher about what was going on, but the teacher didn’t do anything.

Nikita told Father, but nothing changed. She didn’t tell Mother. Mother was too busy.

After Nikita finished second grade, Father was transferred back to the hospital near the Adventist school where Nikita had gone to first grade. She was so happy!

On the first day of third grade, Nikita ran to Ebony, her best friend from first grade. The two girls hugged each other tightly and began to cry. The tears were not tears of sadness but tears of joy.

Then Ebony pulled back, pretended to look cross, and scolded Nikita.

“How could you leave the school and leave me all by myself?” she said,

Nikita knew that Ebony was joking, and the girls laughed happily.

At the Adventist school, none of the grown-ups showed favouritism. All the children were treated equally and fairly.

The Bible says, “For God does not show favouritism” (Romans 2:11, NIV). That means that God does not love one child more than another. Christians also should not love anyone more than another. The Bible says, “My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favouritism” (James 2:1). The school secretary had wanted to help Nikita, but she made a mistake in playing favourites. As a result, life was unfair for Nikita in the second grade.

Now, Nikita is 11 years old and in the sixth grade. She is happy to still be studying at the Adventist school.

“I think Ebenezer Seventh-day Adventist Primary School is the best school on the island,” she said.

Part of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help Nikita’s school, Ebenezer Seventh-day Adventist Primary School, expand with a new building in Dominica’s capital, Roseau. Thank you for planning a generous offering on September 28.

By Andrew McChesney

*Sunday – September 1st***1. How are we told that the Holy Spirit came upon Saul?**

- 1 Samuel 10:10 —
- 1 Samuel 11:6 —

NOTE : ‘The Lord, having placed on Saul the responsibility of the kingdom, did not leave him to himself. He caused the Holy Spirit to rest upon Saul to reveal to him his own weakness and his need of divine grace; and had Saul relied upon God, God would have been with him. So long as his will was controlled by the will of God, so long as he yielded to the discipline of His Spirit, God could crown his efforts with success.’ — *Conflict & Courage*, page 148.

2. What public witness was seen to the change that took place in Saul?

- 1 Samuel 10:11 —

NOTE : ‘As Saul united with the prophets in their worship, a great change was wrought in him by the Holy Spirit. The light of divine purity and holiness shone in upon the darkness of the natural heart. He saw himself as he was before God. He saw the beauty of holiness. He was now called to begin the warfare against sin and Satan, and he was made to feel that in this conflict his strength must come wholly from God. The plan of salvation, which had before seemed dim and uncertain, was opened to his understanding. The Lord endowed him with courage and wisdom for his high station. He revealed to him the Source of strength and grace, and enlightened his understanding as to the divine claims and his own duty.’ — *Patriarchs & Prophets*, page 610.

3. Heaven’s Hotline

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Last Day Events***Sunday, September 1st, 2024******Last Day Events, Chapter 9, pp. 255*****“The Close of Probation”****--****“The Seven Last Plagues and the Wicked”****September 1st****Sunday-Law Enforcement Precedes the Close of Probation**

Ye shall make you no idols nor graven image, neither rear you up a standing image, neither shall you set up any image of stone in your land, to bow down unto it: for I am the LORD your God.

Leviticus 26:1

The Lord has shown me clearly that the image of the beast will be formed before probation closes, for it is to be the great test [SEE THE PREVIOUS CHAPTER, WHERE THE GREAT TEST FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD IS SHOWN TO BE SUNDAY-LAW ENFORCEMENT.] for the people of God, by which their eternal destiny will be decided.—*Selected Messages, Book 2, p. 81 (1890)*

What is the "image to the beast"? and how is it to be formed? The image is made by the two-horned beast, and is an image to the beast. It is also called an image of the beast. [THE TWO-HORNED BEAST OF REVELATION 13:11-17 MAKES AN IMAGE TO THE BEAST PORTRAYED IN REVELATION 13:1-10.] Then to learn what the image is like and how it is to be formed, we must study the characteristics of the beast itself—The Papacy.

When the early church became corrupted by departing from the simplicity of the gospel and accepting heathen rites and customs, she lost the Spirit and power of God; and in order to control the consciences of the people, she sought the support of the secular power. The result was the papacy, a church that controlled the power of the state, and employed it to further her own ends, especially for the punishment of "heresy." In order for the United States to form an image of the beast, the religious power must so control the civil government that the authority of the state will also be employed by the church to accomplish her own ends. . . .

The "image to the beast" represents that form of apostate Protestantism which will be developed when the Protestant churches shall seek the aid of the civil power for the enforcement of their dogmas.—*The Great Controversy, p. 443, 445 (1911).*

Daily Scripture**Sunday, September 1st, 2024****1st Kings Chapter 9****The Lord Appears to Solomon**

- 1Ki 9:1 And it came to pass, when Solomon had finished the building of the house of the LORD, and the king's house, and all Solomon's desire which he was pleased to do,
- 1Ki 9:2 That the LORD appeared to Solomon the second time, as he had appeared unto him at Gibeon.
- 1Ki 9:3 And the LORD said unto him, I have heard thy prayer and thy supplication, that thou hast made before me: I have hallowed this house, which thou hast built, to put my name there for ever; and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually.
- 1Ki 9:4 And if thou wilt walk before me, as David thy father walked, in integrity of heart, and in uprightness, to do according to all that I have commanded thee, *and* wilt keep my statutes and my judgments:
- 1Ki 9:5 Then I will establish the throne of thy kingdom upon Israel for ever, as I promised to David thy father, saying, There shall not fail thee a man upon the throne of Israel.
- 1Ki 9:6 *But* if ye shall at all turn from following me, ye or your children, and will not keep my commandments *and* my statutes which I have set before you, but go and serve other gods, and worship them:
- 1Ki 9:7 Then will I cut off Israel out of the land which I have given them; and this house, which I have hallowed for my name, will I cast out of my sight; and Israel shall be a proverb and a byword among all people:
- 1Ki 9:8 And at this house, *which* is high, every one that passeth by it shall be astonished, and shall hiss; and they shall say, Why hath the LORD done thus unto this land, and to this house?
- 1Ki 9:9 And they shall answer, Because they forsook the LORD their God, who brought forth their fathers out of the land of Egypt, and have taken hold upon other gods, and have worshipped them, and served them: therefore hath the LORD brought upon them all this evil.

Solomon's Other Acts

- 1Ki 9:10 And it came to pass at the end of twenty years, when Solomon had built the two houses, the house of the LORD, and the king's house,
- 1Ki 9:11 (*Now* Hiram the king of Tyre had furnished Solomon with cedar trees and fir trees, and with gold, according to all his desire,) that then king Solomon gave Hiram twenty cities in the land of Galilee.
- 1Ki 9:12 And Hiram came out from Tyre to see the cities which Solomon had given him; and they pleased him not.
- 1Ki 9:13 And he said, What cities *are* these which thou hast given me, my brother? And he called them the land of Cabul unto this day.
- 1Ki 9:14 And Hiram sent to the king six score talents of gold.
- 1Ki 9:15 And this *is* the reason of the levy which king Solomon raised; for to build the house of the LORD, and his own house, and Millo, and the wall of Jerusalem, and Hazor, and Megiddo, and Gezer.
- 1Ki 9:16 *For* Pharaoh king of Egypt had gone up, and taken Gezer, and burnt it with fire, and slain the Canaanites that dwelt in the city, and given it *for* a present unto his daughter, Solomon's wife.
- 1Ki 9:17 And Solomon built Gezer, and Bethhoron the nether,
- 1Ki 9:18 And Baalath, and Tadmor in the wilderness, in the land,
- 1Ki 9:19 And all the cities of store that Solomon had, and cities for his chariots, and cities for his horsemen, and that which Solomon desired to build in Jerusalem, and in Lebanon, and in all the land of his dominion.
- 1Ki 9:20 *And* all the people *that were* left of the Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites, which *were* not of the children of Israel,
- 1Ki 9:21 Their children that were left after them in the land, whom the children of Israel also were not able utterly to destroy, upon those did Solomon levy a tribute of bondservice unto this day.

- 1Ki 9:22 But of the children of Israel did Solomon make no bondmen: but they *were* men of war, and his servants, and his princes, and his captains, and rulers of his chariots, and his horsemen.
- 1Ki 9:23 These *were* the chief of the officers that *were* over Solomon's work, five hundred and fifty, which bare rule over the people that wrought in the work.
- 1Ki 9:24 But Pharaoh's daughter came up out of the city of David unto her house which *Solomon* had built for her: then did he build Millo.
- 1Ki 9:25 And three times in a year did Solomon offer burnt offerings and peace offerings upon the altar which he built unto the LORD, and he burnt incense upon the altar that *was* before the LORD. So he finished the house.
- 1Ki 9:26 And king Solomon made a navy of ships in Eziongeber, which *is* beside Eloth, on the shore of the Red sea, in the land of Edom.
- 1Ki 9:27 And Hiram sent in the navy his servants, shipmen that had knowledge of the sea, with the servants of Solomon.
- 1Ki 9:28 And they came to Ophir, and fetched from thence gold, four hundred and twenty talents, and brought *it* to king Solomon.

Monday – September 2nd

1. How are we shown that Saul was later rejected by God?

➤ 1 Samuel 15:22-24 —

NOTE: ‘The Lord was not pleased with partial obedience, nor willing to pass over what had been neglected through so plausible a motive. God has given men no liberty to depart from His requirements. The Lord had declared to Israel, “Ye shall not do . . . every man whatsoever is right in his own eyes;” but ye shall “observe and hear all these words which I command thee.” Deuteronomy 12:8, 28. In deciding upon any course of action we are not to ask whether we can see that harm will result from it, but whether it is in keeping with the will of God. “There is a way which seem right unto a man; but the end thereof are the ways of death.” Proverbs 14:12. “To obey is better than sacrifice.” The sacrificial offerings were in themselves of no value in the sight of God. They were designed to express on the part of the offeror penitence for sin and faith in Christ and to pledge future obedience to the law of God. But without penitence, faith, and an obedient heart, the offerings were worthless. When, in direct violation of God’s command, Saul proposed to present a sacrifice of that which God had devoted to destruction, open contempt was shown for the divine authority. The service would have been an insult to Heaven. Yet with the sin of Saul and its result before us, how many are pursuing a similar course. While they refuse to believe and obey some requirement of the Lord, they persevere in offering up to God their formal services of religion. There is no response of the Spirit of God to such service. No matter how zealous men may be in their observance of religious ceremonies, the Lord cannot accept them if they persist in wilful violation of one of His commands.’ *Patriarchs & Prophets*, page 634.

2. What was the nature of Saul’s sin?

➤ Compare 1 Samuel 15:3 —

➤ 1 Samuel 15:8-9 —

NOTE: ‘The divine edict devoting the enemies of God to utter destruction was but partially fulfilled. Ambitious to heighten the honour of his triumphal return by the presence of a royal captive, Saul ventured to imitate the customs of the nations around him and spared Agag, the fierce and warlike king of the Amalekites. The people reserved for themselves the finest of the flocks, herds, and beasts of burden, excusing their sin on the ground that the cattle were reserved to be offered as sacrifices to the Lord. It was their purpose, however, to use these merely as a substitute, to save their own cattle. Saul had now been subjected to the final test. His presumptuous disregard of the will of God, showing his determination to rule as an independent monarch, proved that he could not be trusted with royal power as the vicegerent of the Lord.’ *Patriarchs & Prophets*, page 629.

3. Heaven’s Hotline

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Last Day Events***Monday, September 2nd, 2024******Last Day Events, Chapter 9, pp. 256*****“The Close of Probation”****--****“The Seven Last Plagues and the Wicked”****September 2nd****Probation Closes When the Sealing Is Finished**

Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed one hundred and forty-four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.

Revelation 7:3-4

Just before we entered it [the time of trouble], we all received the seal of the living God. Then I saw the four angels cease to hold the four winds. And I saw famine, pestilence and sword, nation rose against nation, and the whole world was in confusion.—*SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 7, p. 968 (1846).*

I saw angels hurrying to and fro in heaven. An angel with a writer's inkhorn by his side returned from the earth and reported to Jesus that his work was done, and the saints were numbered and sealed. Then I saw Jesus, who had been ministering before the ark containing the ten commandments, throw down the censer. He raised His hands, and with a loud voice said, "It is done."—*Early Writings, p. 279 (1858).*

Only a moment of time, as it were, yet remains. But while already nation is rising against nation and kingdom against kingdom, there is not now a general engagement. As yet the four winds are held until the servants of God shall be sealed in their foreheads. Then the powers of earth will marshal their forces for the last great battle.—*Testimonies for the Church, vol. 6, p. 14 (1900).*

An angel returning from the earth announces that his work is done; the final test has been brought upon the world, and all who have proved themselves loyal to the divine precepts have received "the seal of the living God." Then Jesus ceases His intercession in the sanctuary above. He lifts His hands, and with a loud voice says, "It is done."—*The Great Controversy, p. 613 (1911).*

Daily Scripture**Monday, September 2nd, 2024****1st Kings Chapter 10****The Queen of Sheba**

- 1Ki 10:1 And when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon concerning the name of the LORD, she came to prove him with hard questions.
- 1Ki 10:2 And she came to Jerusalem with a very great train, with camels that bare spices, and very much gold, and precious stones: and when she was come to Solomon, she communed with him of all that was in her heart.
- 1Ki 10:3 And Solomon told her all her questions: there was not *anything* hid from the king, which he told her not.
- 1Ki 10:4 And when the queen of Sheba had seen all Solomon's wisdom, and the house that he had built,
- 1Ki 10:5 And the meat of his table, and the sitting of his servants, and the attendance of his ministers, and their apparel, and his cupbearers, and his ascent by which he went up unto the house of the LORD; there was no more spirit in her.
- 1Ki 10:6 And she said to the king, It was a true report that I heard in mine own land of thy acts and of thy wisdom.
- 1Ki 10:7 Howbeit I believed not the words, until I came, and mine eyes had seen *it*: and, behold, the half was not told me: thy wisdom and prosperity exceeds the fame which I heard.
- 1Ki 10:8 Happy *are* thy men, happy *are* these thy servants, which stand continually before thee, *and* that hear thy wisdom.
- 1Ki 10:9 Blessed be the LORD thy God, which delighted in thee, to set thee on the throne of Israel: because the LORD loved Israel for ever, therefore made he thee king, to do judgment and justice.
- 1Ki 10:10 And she gave the king an hundred and twenty talents of gold, and of spices very great store, and precious stones: there came no more such abundance of spices as these which the queen of Sheba gave to king Solomon.
- 1Ki 10:11 And the navy also of Hiram, that brought gold from Ophir, brought in from Ophir great plenty of almug trees, and precious stones.
- 1Ki 10:12 And the king made of the almug trees pillars for the house of the LORD, and for the king's house, harps also and psalteries for singers: there came no such almug trees, nor were seen unto this day.
- 1Ki 10:13 And king Solomon gave unto the queen of Sheba all her desire, whatsoever she asked, beside *that* which Solomon gave her of his royal bounty. So she turned and went to her own country, she and her servants.

Solomon's Great Wealth

- 1Ki 10:14 Now the weight of gold that came to Solomon in one year was six hundred threescore and six talents of gold,
- 1Ki 10:15 Beside *that he had* of the merchantmen, and of the traffic of the spice merchants, and of all the kings of Arabia, and of the governors of the country.
- 1Ki 10:16 And king Solomon made two hundred targets *of* beaten gold: six hundred *shekels* of gold went to one target.
- 1Ki 10:17 And *he made* three hundred shields *of* beaten gold; three pound of gold went to one shield: and the king put them in the house of the forest of Lebanon.
- 1Ki 10:18 Moreover the king made a great throne of ivory, and overlaid it with the best gold.
- 1Ki 10:19 The throne had six steps, and the top of the throne *was* round behind: and *there were* stays on either side on the place of the seat, and two lions stood beside the stays.
- 1Ki 10:20 And twelve lions stood there on the one side and on the other upon the six steps: there was not the like made in any kingdom.

- 1Ki 10:21 And all king Solomon's drinking vessels *were of* gold, and all the vessels of the house of the forest of Lebanon *were of* pure gold; none *were of* silver: it was nothing accounted of in the days of Solomon.
- 1Ki 10:22 For the king had at sea a navy of Tharshish with the navy of Hiram: once in three years came the navy of Tharshish, bringing gold, and silver, ivory, and apes, and peacocks.
- 1Ki 10:23 So king Solomon exceeded all the kings of the earth for riches and for wisdom.
- 1Ki 10:24 And all the earth sought to Solomon, to hear his wisdom, which God had put in his heart.
- 1Ki 10:25 And they brought every man his present, vessels of silver, and vessels of gold, and garments, and armour, and spices, horses, and mules, a rate year by year.
- 1Ki 10:26 And Solomon gathered together chariots and horsemen: and he had a thousand and four hundred chariots, and twelve thousand horsemen, whom he bestowed in the cities for chariots, and with the king at Jerusalem.
- 1Ki 10:27 And the king made silver *to be* in Jerusalem as stones, and cedars made he *to be* as the sycamore trees that *are* in the vale, for abundance.
- 1Ki 10:28 And Solomon had horses brought out of Egypt, and linen yarn: the king's merchants received the linen yarn at a price.
- 1Ki 10:29 And a chariot came up and went out of Egypt for six hundred *shekels* of silver, and an horse for an hundred and fifty: and so for all the kings of the Hittites, and for the kings of Syria, did they bring *them* out by their means.

*Tuesday – September 3rd***1. What sin did Saul commit on the night before his death?**

- 1 Samuel 28:7-8 —
- 1 Samuel 28:3 —
- Leviticus 19:31 —
- Leviticus 20:6 —
- Deuteronomy 18:10-12 —

NOTE : ‘Saul knew that in this last act, of consulting the witch of Endor, he cut the last shred which held him to God. He knew that if he had not before wilfully separated himself from God, this act sealed that separation, and made it final. He had made an agreement with death, and a covenant with hell. The cup of his iniquity was full.’ —*Conflict & Courage, page 172.*

2. How did Saul die?

- 1 Samuel 31:4 —

NOTE : It is proposed by Calvinists that the one truly converted has no ability of his own to backslide and stay backslidden. This belief they describe as ‘the unconditional perseverance of the saints.’ Some Calvinists, confronted with clear evidence of backsliding and subsequent death in his sins, claim that this is simply evidence that such a man was never truly converted in the first place. The case of Saul shows that:

- i.) God gave him a change of heart,
- ii.) the Spirit of God came mightily upon him,
- iii.) that the change in his life was witnessed by the people.

If a man could have all these evidences and still not be truly converted, then we may well wonder what are the evidences of conversion! ‘Saul took his own life by falling upon his sword. Thus the first king of Israel perished, with the guilt of self-murder upon his soul.’ —*Conflict & Courage, page 174.*

3. Heaven’s Hotline

Last Day Events***Tuesday, September 3rd, 2024******Last Day Events, Chapter 9, pp. 257*****“The Close of Probation”****--****“The Seven Last Plagues and the Wicked”****September 3rd****Probation Will End Suddenly, Unexpectedly****Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not.****Luke 12:40**

When Jesus ceases to plead for man, the cases of all are forever decided. . . . Probation closes; Christ's intercessions cease in heaven. This time finally comes suddenly upon all, and those who have neglected to purify their souls by obeying the truth are found sleeping.—*Testimonies for the Church*, vol.2, p. 191 (1868).

When probation ends, it will come suddenly, unexpectedly—at a time when we are least expecting it. But we can have a clean record in heaven today, and know that God accepts us. —*SDA Bible Commentary*, vol. 7, p. 989 (1906).

When the work of the investigative judgment closes, the destiny of all will have been decided for life or death. Probation is ended a short time before the appearing of the Lord in the clouds of heaven. . .

Before the Flood, after Noah entered the ark, God shut him in, and shut the ungodly out; but for seven days the people, knowing not that their doom was fixed, continued their careless, pleasure-loving life, and mocked the warnings of impending judgment. "So," says the Saviour, "*shall also the coming of the Son of man be.*" [Matthew 24:39] Silently, unnoticed as the midnight thief, will come the decisive hour which marks the fixing of every man's destiny, the final withdrawal of mercy's offer to guilty men. . . .

While the man of business is absorbed in the pursuit of gain, while the pleasure lover is seeking indulgence, while the daughter of fashion is arranging her adornments—it may be in that hour the Judge of all the earth will pronounce the sentence: "*Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting.*" [Daniel 5:27]—*The Great Controversy*, p. 490, 491 (1911).

Daily Scripture**Tuesday, September 3rd, 2024****1st Kings Chapter 11****Solomon Turns from the Lord**

- 1Ki 11:1 But king Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians, *and* Hittites;
- 1Ki 11:2 Of the nations *concerning* which the LORD said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall not go in to them, neither shall they come in unto you: *for* surely they will turn away your heart after their gods: Solomon clave unto these in love.
- 1Ki 11:3 And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart.
- 1Ki 11:4 For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, *that* his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as *was* the heart of David his father.
- 1Ki 11:5 For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites.
- 1Ki 11:6 And Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and went not fully after the LORD, as *did* David his father.
- 1Ki 11:7 Then did Solomon build an high place for Chemosh, the abomination of Moab, in the hill that *is* before Jerusalem, and for Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon.
- 1Ki 11:8 And likewise did he for all his strange wives, which burnt incense and sacrificed unto their gods.

The Lord Raises Adversaries

- 1Ki 11:9 And the LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from the LORD God of Israel, which had appeared unto him twice,
- 1Ki 11:10 And had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods: but he kept not that which the LORD commanded.
- 1Ki 11:11 Wherefore the LORD said unto Solomon, Forasmuch as this is done of thee, and thou hast not kept my covenant and my statutes, which I have commanded thee, I will surely rend the kingdom from thee, and will give it to thy servant.
- 1Ki 11:12 Notwithstanding in thy days I will not do it for David thy father's sake: *but* I will rend it out of the hand of thy son.
- 1Ki 11:13 Howbeit I will not rend away all the kingdom; *but* will give one tribe to thy son for David my servant's sake, and for Jerusalem's sake which I have chosen.
- 1Ki 11:14 And the LORD stirred up an adversary unto Solomon, Hadad the Edomite: he *was* of the king's seed in Edom.
- 1Ki 11:15 For it came to pass, when David was in Edom, and Joab the captain of the host was gone up to bury the slain, after he had smitten every male in Edom;
- 1Ki 11:16 (For six months did Joab remain there with all Israel, until he had cut off every male in Edom:)
- 1Ki 11:17 That Hadad fled, he and certain Edomites of his father's servants with him, to go into Egypt; Hadad *being* yet a little child.
- 1Ki 11:18 And they arose out of Midian, and came to Paran: and they took men with them out of Paran, and they came to Egypt, unto Pharaoh king of Egypt; which gave him an house, and appointed him victuals, and gave him land.
- 1Ki 11:19 And Hadad found great favour in the sight of Pharaoh, so that he gave him to wife the sister of his own wife, the sister of Tahpenes the queen.
- 1Ki 11:20 And the sister of Tahpenes bare him Genubath his son, whom Tahpenes weaned in Pharaoh's house: and Genubath was in Pharaoh's household among the sons of Pharaoh.

- 1Ki 11:21 And when Hadad heard in Egypt that David slept with his fathers, and that Joab the captain of the host was dead, Hadad said to Pharaoh, Let me depart, that I may go to mine own country.
- 1Ki 11:22 Then Pharaoh said unto him, But what hast thou lacked with me, that, behold, thou seek to go to thine own country? And he answered, Nothing: howbeit let me go in any wise.
- 1Ki 11:23 And God stirred him up *another* adversary, Rezon the son of Eliadah, which fled from his lord Hadadezer king of Zobah:
- 1Ki 11:24 And he gathered men unto him, and became captain over a band, when David slew them *of Zobah*: and they went to Damascus, and dwelt therein, and reigned in Damascus.
- 1Ki 11:25 And he was an adversary to Israel all the days of Solomon, beside the mischief that Hadad *did*: and he abhorred Israel, and reigned over Syria.
- 1Ki 11:26 And Jeroboam the son of Nebat, an Ephrathite of Zereda, Solomon's servant, whose mother's name *was* Zeruah, a widow woman, even he lifted up *his* hand against the king.
- 1Ki 11:27 And this *was* the cause that he lifted up *his* hand against the king: Solomon built Millo, *and* repaired the breaches of the city of David his father.
- 1Ki 11:28 And the man Jeroboam *was* a mighty man of valour: and Solomon seeing the young man that he was industrious, he made him ruler over all the charge of the house of Joseph.
- 1Ki 11:29 And it came to pass at that time when Jeroboam went out of Jerusalem, that the prophet Ahijah the Shilonite found him in the way; and he had clad himself with a new garment; and they two *were* alone in the field:
- 1Ki 11:30 And Ahijah caught the new garment that *was* on him, and rent it *in* twelve pieces:
- 1Ki 11:31 And he said to Jeroboam, Take thee ten pieces: for thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel, Behold, I will rend the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon, and will give ten tribes to thee:
- 1Ki 11:32 (But he shall have one tribe for my servant David's sake, and for Jerusalem's sake, the city which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel:)
- 1Ki 11:33 Because that they have forsaken me, and have worshipped Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, Chemosh the god of the Moabites, and Milcom the god of the children of Ammon, and have not walked in my ways, to do *that which is* right in mine eyes, and *to keep* my statutes and my judgments, as *did* David his father.
- 1Ki 11:34 Howbeit I will not take the whole kingdom out of his hand: but I will make him prince all the days of his life for David my servant's sake, whom I chose, because he kept my commandments and my statutes:
- 1Ki 11:35 But I will take the kingdom out of his son's hand, and will give it unto thee, *even* ten tribes.
- 1Ki 11:36 And unto his son will I give one tribe, that David my servant may have a light always before me in Jerusalem, the city which I have chosen me to put my name there.
- 1Ki 11:37 And I will take thee, and thou shalt reign according to all that thy soul desireth, and shalt be king over Israel.
- 1Ki 11:38 And it shall be, if thou wilt hearken unto all that I command thee, and wilt walk in my ways, and do *that is* right in my sight, to keep my statutes and my commandments, as David my servant did; that I will be with thee, and build thee a sure house, as I built for David, and will give Israel unto thee.
- 1Ki 11:39 And I will for this afflict the seed of David, but not for ever.
- 1Ki 11:40 Solomon sought therefore to kill Jeroboam. And Jeroboam arose, and fled into Egypt, unto Shishak king of Egypt, and was in Egypt until the death of Solomon.
- 1Ki 11:41 And the rest of the acts of Solomon, and all that he did, and his wisdom, *are* they not written in the book of the acts of Solomon?
- 1Ki 11:42 And the time that Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel *was* forty years.
- 1Ki 11:43 And Solomon slept with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David his father: and Rehoboam his son reigned in his stead.

Wednesday – September 4th

1. How did Saul/Paul describe his conversion experience?

- Galatians 1:15-16, first part. —
- Galatians 2:20 —

NOTE: ‘Christ, the precious Saviour, is to be the Christian’s all in all. Every holy thought, every pure desire, every godlike purpose, is from Him who is the light, the truth, and the way. Christ is to live in His representatives by the Spirit of truth. Paul says, “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ lives in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me” (Galatians 2:20).’ —*In Heavenly Places*, page 65.

2. How did Paul describe the difference that followed his conversion experience?

- Acts 26:9-11 —
- Acts 26:22-23 —

NOTE: ‘At the time of his conversion, Paul was inspired with a longing desire to help his fellow men to behold Jesus of Nazareth as the Son of the living God, mighty to transform and to save. Henceforth his life was wholly devoted to an effort to portray the love and power of the Crucified One. The apostle’s efforts were not confined to public speaking; there were many who could not have been reached in that way. He visited the sick and the sorrowing, comforted the afflicted, and lifted up the oppressed. And in all that he said and did he magnified the name of Jesus. Paul realised that his sufficiency was not in himself, but in the presence of the Holy Spirit, whose gracious influence filled his heart self was hidden; Christ was revealed and exalted.’ —*Conflict & Courage*, page 341.

3. Heaven’s Hotline



Last Day Events***Wednesday, September 4th, 2024******Last Day Events, Chapter 9, pp. 258*****“The Close of Probation”****--****“The Seven Last Plagues and the Wicked”****September 4th****Human Activity After Probation's Close**

For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark,

Matthew 24:38

The righteous and the wicked will still be living upon the earth in their mortal state--men will be planting and building, eating and drinking, all unconscious that the final, irrevocable decision has been pronounced in the sanctuary above. —*The Great Controversy*, p. 491 (1911).

When the irrevocable decision of the sanctuary has been pronounced, and the destiny of the world has been forever fixed, the inhabitants of the earth will know it not. The forms of religion will be continued by a people from whom the Spirit of God has been finally withdrawn, and the satanic zeal with which the prince of evil will inspire them for the accomplishment of his malignant designs, will bear the semblance of zeal for God.—*The Great Controversy*, p. 615 (1911).

The wheat and tares "grow together until the harvest." In the discharge of life's duties the righteous will to the last be brought in contact with the ungodly. The children of light are scattered among the children of darkness, that the contrast may be seen by all.—*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 100 (1882).

Christ declared that when He comes some of His waiting people will be engaged in business transactions. Some will be sowing in the field, others reaping and gathering in the harvest, and others grinding at the mill.—*Manuscript 26*, 1901.

Daily Scripture**Wednesday, September 4th, 2024****1st Kings Chapter 12****Rehoboam's Folly**

- 1Ki 12:1 And Rehoboam went to Shechem: for all Israel were come to Shechem to make him king.
- 1Ki 12:2 And it came to pass, when Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who was yet in Egypt, heard *of it*, (for he was fled from the presence of king Solomon, and Jeroboam dwelt in Egypt;)
- 1Ki 12:3 That they sent and called him. And Jeroboam and all the congregation of Israel came, and spake unto Rehoboam, saying,
- 1Ki 12:4 Thy father made our yoke grievous: now therefore make thou the grievous service of thy father, and his heavy yoke which he put upon us, lighter, and we will serve thee.
- 1Ki 12:5 And he said unto them, Depart yet *for* three days, then come again to me. And the people departed.
- 1Ki 12:6 And king Rehoboam consulted with the old men, that stood before Solomon his father while he yet lived, and said, How do ye advise that I may answer this people?
- 1Ki 12:7 And they spake unto him, saying, If thou wilt be a servant unto this people this day, and wilt serve them, and answer them, and speak good words to them, then they will be thy servants for ever.
- 1Ki 12:8 But he forsook the counsel of the old men, which they had given him, and consulted with the young men that were grown up with him, *and* which stood before him:
- 1Ki 12:9 And he said unto them, What counsel give ye that we may answer this people, who have spoken to me, saying, Make the yoke which thy father did put upon us lighter?
- 1Ki 12:10 And the young men that were grown up with him spake unto him, saying, Thus shalt thou speak unto this people that spake unto thee, saying, Thy father made our yoke heavy, but make thou *it* lighter unto us; thus shalt thou say unto them, My little *finger* shall be thicker than my father's loins.
- 1Ki 12:11 And now whereas my father did lade you with a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke: my father hath chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions.
- 1Ki 12:12 So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam the third day, as the king had appointed, saying, Come to me again the third day.
- 1Ki 12:13 And the king answered the people roughly, and forsook the old men's counsel that they gave him;
- 1Ki 12:14 And spake to them after the counsel of the young men, saying, My father made your yoke heavy, and I will add to your yoke: my father *also* chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions.
- 1Ki 12:15 Wherefore the king hearkened not unto the people; for the cause was from the LORD, that he might perform his saying, which the LORD spake by Ahijah the Shilonite unto Jeroboam the son of Nebat.

The Kingdom Divided

- 1Ki 12:16 So when all Israel saw that the king hearkened not unto them, the people answered the king, saying, What portion have we in David? neither *have we* inheritance in the son of Jesse: to your tents, O Israel: now see to thine own house, David. So Israel departed unto their tents.
- 1Ki 12:17 But *as for* the children of Israel which dwelt in the cities of Judah, Rehoboam reigned over them.
- 1Ki 12:18 Then king Rehoboam sent Adoram, who *was* over the tribute; and all Israel stoned him with stones, that he died. Therefore king Rehoboam made speed to get him up to his chariot, to flee to Jerusalem.
- 1Ki 12:19 So Israel rebelled against the house of David unto this day.
- 1Ki 12:20 And it came to pass, when all Israel heard that Jeroboam was come again, that they sent and called him unto the congregation, and made him king over all Israel: there was none that followed the house of David, but the tribe of Judah only.
- 1Ki 12:21 And when Rehoboam was come to Jerusalem, he assembled all the house of Judah, with the tribe of Benjamin, an hundred and fourscore thousand chosen men, which were warriors, to fight against the house of Israel, to bring the kingdom again to Rehoboam the son of Solomon.
- 1Ki 12:22 But the word of God came unto Shemaiah the man of God, saying,

- 1Ki 12:23 Speak unto Rehoboam, the son of Solomon, king of Judah, and unto all the house of Judah and Benjamin, and to the remnant of the people, saying,
- 1Ki 12:24 Thus saith the LORD, Ye shall not go up, nor fight against your brethren the children of Israel: return every man to his house; for this thing is from me. They hearkened therefore to the word of the LORD, and returned to depart, according to the word of the LORD.

Jeroboam's Golden Calves

- 1Ki 12:25 Then Jeroboam built Shechem in mount Ephraim, and dwelt therein; and went out from thence, and built Penuel.
- 1Ki 12:26 And Jeroboam said in his heart, Now shall the kingdom return to the house of David:
- 1Ki 12:27 If this people go up to do sacrifice in the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, then shall the heart of this people turn again unto their lord, *even* unto Rehoboam king of Judah, and they shall kill me, and go again to Rehoboam king of Judah.
- 1Ki 12:28 Whereupon the king took counsel, and made two calves *of* gold, and said unto them, It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem: behold thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.
- 1Ki 12:29 And he set the one in Bethel, and the other put he in Dan.
- 1Ki 12:30 And this thing became a sin: for the people went *to worship* before the one, *even* unto Dan.
- 1Ki 12:31 And he made an house of high places, and made priests of the lowest of the people, which were not of the sons of Levi.
- 1Ki 12:32 And Jeroboam ordained a feast in the eighth month, on the fifteenth day of the month, like unto the feast that *is* in Judah, and he offered upon the altar. So did he in Bethel, sacrificing unto the calves that he had made: and he placed in Bethel the priests of the high places which he had made.
- 1Ki 12:33 So he offered upon the altar which he had made in Bethel the fifteenth day of the eighth month, *even* in the month which he had devised of his own heart; and ordained a feast unto the children of Israel: and he offered upon the altar, and burnt incense.

Thursday – September 5th

1. From whom did Paul learn the importance of obedience?

- **Philippians 2:8** —
- **Hebrews 5:8** —

NOTE : ‘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. “I delight to do Thy will, O My God,” He declared; “yea, Thy law is within My heart.” Psalm 40:8. Christ counted no sacrifice too great, no toil too hard, in order to accomplish the work which He came to do. At the age of twelve He said, “Wist ye not that I must be about My Father’s business?” Luke 2:49. He had heard the call, and had taken up the work. “My meat,” He said, “is to do the will of Him that sent Me, and to finish His work.” John 4:34. Thus we are to serve God.’ Christ’s Object Lessons, pages 282-283.

2. Heaven’s Hotline



Last Day Events

Thursday, September 5th, 2024

Last Day Events, Chapter 9, pp. 259

“The Close of Probation”

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“The Seven Last Plagues and the Wicked”

September 5th

Unbelief and Forbidden Pleasures Continue

And they called unto Lot, and said unto him, Where are the men which came in to thee this night? bring them out unto us, that we may know them.

Genesis 19:5

Scepticism and that which is called science has to a large degree undermined the faith of the Christian world in their Bibles. Error and fables are gladly accepted, that they may pursue the path of self-indulgence and not be alarmed, for they are striving not to retain God in their knowledge. They say, "Tomorrow will be as this day and much more abundant." But in the midst of their unbelief and godless pleasure the shout of the archangel and the trump of God is heard. . .

When everything in our world is busy activity, immersed in selfish ambition for gain, Jesus comes as a thief.—*Manuscript 15b*, 1886.

When the professed people of God are uniting with the world, living as they live, and joining with them in forbidden pleasure; when the luxury of the world becomes the luxury of the church; when the marriage bells are chiming, and all are looking forward to many years of worldly prosperity--then, suddenly as the lightning flashes from the heavens, will come the end of their bright visions and delusive hopes.—*The Great Controversy*, p. 338, 339 (1911).

Daily Scripture**Thursday, September 5th, 2024****1st Kings Chapter 13****A Man of God Confronts Jeroboam**

- 1Ki 13:1 And, behold, there came a man of God out of Judah by the word of the LORD unto Bethel: and Jeroboam stood by the altar to burn incense.
- 1Ki 13:2 And he cried against the altar in the word of the LORD, and said, O altar, altar, thus saith the LORD; Behold, a child shall be born unto the house of David, Josiah by name; and upon thee shall he offer the priests of the high places that burn incense upon thee, and men's bones shall be burnt upon thee.
- 1Ki 13:3 And he gave a sign the same day, saying, This *is* the sign which the LORD hath spoken; Behold, the altar shall be rent, and the ashes that *are* upon it shall be poured out.
- 1Ki 13:4 And it came to pass, when king Jeroboam heard the saying of the man of God, which had cried against the altar in Bethel, that he put forth his hand from the altar, saying, Lay hold on him. And his hand, which he put forth against him, dried up, so that he could not pull it in again to him.
- 1Ki 13:5 The altar also was rent, and the ashes poured out from the altar, according to the sign which the man of God had given by the word of the LORD.
- 1Ki 13:6 And the king answered and said unto the man of God, Entreat now the face of the LORD thy God, and pray for me, that my hand may be restored me again. And the man of God besought the LORD, and the king's hand was restored him again, and became as *it was* before.
- 1Ki 13:7 And the king said unto the man of God, Come home with me, and refresh thyself, and I will give thee a reward.
- 1Ki 13:8 And the man of God said unto the king, If thou wilt give me half thine house, I will not go in with thee, neither will I eat bread nor drink water in this place:
- 1Ki 13:9 For so was it charged me by the word of the LORD, saying, Eat no bread, nor drink water, nor turn again by the same way that thou came.
- 1Ki 13:10 So he went another way, and returned not by the way that he came to Bethel.

The Prophet's Disobedience

- 1Ki 13:11 Now there dwelt an old prophet in Bethel; and his sons came and told him all the works that the man of God had done that day in Bethel: the words which he had spoken unto the king, them they told also to their father.
- 1Ki 13:12 And their father said unto them, What way went he? For his sons had seen what way the man of God went, which came from Judah.
- 1Ki 13:13 And he said unto his sons, Saddle me the ass. So they saddled him the ass: and he rode thereon,
- 1Ki 13:14 And went after the man of God, and found him sitting under an oak: and he said unto him, *Art* thou the man of God that came from Judah? And he said, I *am*.
- 1Ki 13:15 Then he said unto him, Come home with me, and eat bread.
- 1Ki 13:16 And he said, I may not return with thee, nor go in with thee: neither will I eat bread nor drink water with thee in this place:
- 1Ki 13:17 For it was said to me by the word of the LORD, Thou shalt eat no bread nor drink water there, nor turn again to go by the way that thou came.
- 1Ki 13:18 He said unto him, I *am* a prophet also as thou *art*; and an angel spake unto me by the word of the LORD, saying, Bring him back with thee into thine house, that he may eat bread and drink water. *But* he lied unto him.
- 1Ki 13:19 So he went back with him, and did eat bread in his house, and drank water.
- 1Ki 13:20 And it came to pass, as they sat at the table, that the word of the LORD came unto the prophet that brought him back:

- 1Ki 13:21 And he cried unto the man of God that came from Judah, saying, Thus saith the LORD, Forasmuch as thou hast disobeyed the mouth of the LORD, and hast not kept the commandment which the LORD thy God commanded thee,
- 1Ki 13:22 But came back, and hast eaten bread and drunk water in the place, of the which *the LORD* did say to thee, Eat no bread, and drink no water; thy carcase shall not come unto the sepulchre of thy fathers.
- 1Ki 13:23 And it came to pass, after he had eaten bread, and after he had drunk, that he saddled for him the ass, *to wit*, for the prophet whom he had brought back.
- 1Ki 13:24 And when he was gone, a lion met him by the way, and slew him: and his carcase was cast in the way, and the ass stood by it, the lion also stood by the carcase.
- 1Ki 13:25 And, behold, men passed by, and saw the carcase cast in the way, and the lion standing by the carcase: and they came and told *it* in the city where the old prophet dwelt.
- 1Ki 13:26 And when the prophet that brought him back from the way heard *thereof*, he said, It *is* the man of God, who was disobedient unto the word of the LORD: therefore the LORD hath delivered him unto the lion, which hath torn him, and slain him, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake unto him.
- 1Ki 13:27 And he spoke to his sons, saying, Saddle me the ass. And they saddled *him*.
- 1Ki 13:28 And he went and found his carcase cast in the way, and the ass and the lion standing by the carcase: the lion had not eaten the carcase, nor torn the ass.
- 1Ki 13:29 And the prophet took up the carcase of the man of God, and laid it upon the ass, and brought it back: and the old prophet came to the city, to mourn and to bury him.
- 1Ki 13:30 And he laid his carcase in his own grave; and they mourned over him, *saying*, Alas, my brother!
- 1Ki 13:31 And it came to pass, after he had buried him, that he spoke to his sons, saying, When I am dead, then bury me in the sepulchre wherein the man of God *is* buried; lay my bones beside his bones:
- 1Ki 13:32 For the saying which he cried by the word of the LORD against the altar in Bethel, and against all the houses of the high places which *are* in the cities of Samaria, shall surely come to pass.
- 1Ki 13:33 After this thing Jeroboam returned not from his evil way, but made again of the lowest of the people priests of the high places: whosoever would, he consecrated him, and he became *one* of the priests of the high places.
- 1Ki 13:34 And this thing became sin unto the house of Jeroboam, even to cut *it* off, and to destroy *it* from off the face of the earth.

*Preparation Day – September 6th***1. In contrast to King Saul's despair, how did Paul express his confidence and assurance?**

➤ **2 Timothy 4:6-8** —

➤ **2 Timothy 4:18** —

NOTE : 'In placing on record this account of his trials through men who turned from the faith, Paul speaks words which should encourage our hearts as we pass over the same ground. We are having trials to encounter similar to those that Paul met. There are some who once were with us as teachers, but who are now denying the faith, and are working against the truth they once advocated. In this experience we need not lose our faith and confidence in God. It is the privilege of each to be able to say, "The Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto His heavenly kingdom; to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen."' —*Review & Herald, July 18, 1907.*

3. Heaven's Hotline

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Last Day Events***Preparation Day, September 6th, 2024******Last Day Events, Chapter 9, pp. 260*****“The Close of Probation”****--****“The Seven Last Plagues and the Wicked”****September 6th****Men Will Be Wholly Engrossed in Business****Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded;****Luke 17:28**

When Lot warned the members of his family of the destruction of Sodom, they would not heed his words, but looked upon him as a fanatical enthusiast. The destruction that came found them unprepared. Thus it will be when Christ comes--farmers, merchants, lawyers, tradesmen, will be wholly engrossed in business, and upon them the day of the Lord will come as a snare.—*The Review and Herald, March 10, 1904.*

When ministers, farmers, merchants, lawyers, great men and professedly good men shall cry, "Peace and safety," sudden destruction cometh. Luke reports the words of Christ, that the day of God comes as a snare--the figure of an animal prowling in the woods for prey, and lo, suddenly he is entrapped in the concealed snare of the fowler.—*Manuscript Release 10, p. 266 (1876).*

When men are at ease, full of amusement, absorbed in buying and selling, then the thief approaches with stealthy tread. So it will be at the coming of the Son of man.—*Letter 21, 1897.*

Daily Scripture**Preparation Day, September 6th, 2024****1st Kings Chapter 14****Prophecy Against Jeroboam**

- 1Ki 14:1 At that time Abijah the son of Jeroboam fell sick.
- 1Ki 14:2 And Jeroboam said to his wife, Arise, I pray thee, and disguise thyself, that thou be not known to be the wife of Jeroboam; and get thee to Shiloh: behold, there *is* Ahijah the prophet, which told me that *I should be* king over this people.
- 1Ki 14:3 And take with thee ten loaves, and cracknels, and a cruse of honey, and go to him: he shall tell thee what shall become of the child.
- 1Ki 14:4 And Jeroboam's wife did so, and arose, and went to Shiloh, and came to the house of Ahijah. But Ahijah could not see; for his eyes were set by reason of his age.
- 1Ki 14:5 And the LORD said unto Ahijah, Behold, the wife of Jeroboam cometh to ask a thing of thee for her son; for he *is* sick: thus and thus shalt thou say unto her: for it shall be, when she cometh in, that she shall feign herself *to be* another *woman*.
- 1Ki 14:6 And it was *so*, when Ahijah heard the sound of her feet, as she came in at the door, that he said, Come in, thou wife of Jeroboam; why feign thou thyself *to be* another? for I *am* sent to thee *with heavy tidings*.
- 1Ki 14:7 Go, tell Jeroboam, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Forasmuch as I exalted thee from among the people, and made thee prince over my people Israel,
- 1Ki 14:8 And rent the kingdom away from the house of David, and gave it thee: and *yet* thou hast not been as my servant David, who kept my commandments, and who followed me with all his heart, to do *that* only *which was* right in mine eyes;
- 1Ki 14:9 But hast done evil above all that were before thee: for thou hast gone and made you other gods, and molten images, to provoke me to anger, and hast cast me behind thy back:
- 1Ki 14:10 Therefore, behold, I will bring evil upon the house of Jeroboam, and will cut off from Jeroboam him that pisses against the wall, *and* him that is shut up and left in Israel, and will take away the remnant of the house of Jeroboam, as a man taketh away dung, till it be all gone.
- 1Ki 14:11 Him that dies of Jeroboam in the city shall the dogs eat; and him that dies in the field shall the fowls of the air eat: for the LORD hath spoken *it*.
- 1Ki 14:12 Arise thou therefore, get thee to thine own house: *and* when thy feet enter into the city, the child shall die.
- 1Ki 14:13 And all Israel shall mourn for him, and bury him: for he only of Jeroboam shall come to the grave, because in him there is found *some* good thing toward the LORD God of Israel in the house of Jeroboam.
- 1Ki 14:14 Moreover the LORD shall raise him up a king over Israel, who shall cut off the house of Jeroboam that day: but what? even now.
- 1Ki 14:15 For the LORD shall smite Israel, as a reed is shaken in the water, and he shall root up Israel out of this good land, which he gave to their fathers, and shall scatter them beyond the river, because they have made their groves, provoking the LORD to anger.
- 1Ki 14:16 And he shall give Israel up because of the sins of Jeroboam, who did sin, and who made Israel to sin.
- 1Ki 14:17 And Jeroboam's wife arose, and departed, and came to Tirzah: *and* when she came to the threshold of the door, the child died;
- 1Ki 14:18 And they buried him; and all Israel mourned for him, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by the hand of his servant Ahijah the prophet.

The Death of Jeroboam

- 1Ki 14:19 And the rest of the acts of Jeroboam, how he warred, and how he reigned, behold, they *are* written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel.

1Ki 14:20 And the days which Jeroboam reigned *were* two and twenty years: and he slept with his fathers, and Nadab his son reigned in his stead.

Rehoboam Reigns in Judah

1Ki 14:21 And Rehoboam the son of Solomon reigned in Judah. Rehoboam *was* forty and one years old when he began to reign, and he reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city which the LORD did choose out of all the tribes of Israel, to put his name there. And his mother's name *was* Naamah an Ammonitess.

1Ki 14:22 And Judah did evil in the sight of the LORD, and they provoked him to jealousy with their sins which they had committed, above all that their fathers had done.

1Ki 14:23 For they also built them high places, and images, and groves, on every high hill, and under every green tree.

1Ki 14:24 And there were also sodomites in the land: *and* they did according to all the abominations of the nations which the LORD cast out before the children of Israel.

1Ki 14:25 And it came to pass in the fifth year of king Rehoboam, *that* Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem:

1Ki 14:26 And he took away the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king's house; he even took away all: and he took away all the shields of gold which Solomon had made.

1Ki 14:27 And king Rehoboam made in their stead brasen shields, and committed *them* unto the hands of the chief of the guard, which kept the door of the king's house.

1Ki 14:28 And it was *so*, when the king went into the house of the LORD, that the guard bare them, and brought them back into the guard chamber.

1Ki 14:29 Now the rest of the acts of Rehoboam, and all that he did, *are* they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?

1Ki 14:30 And there was war between Rehoboam and Jeroboam all *their* days.

1Ki 14:31 And Rehoboam slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David. And his mother's name *was* Naamah an Ammonitess. And Abijam his son reigned in his stead.

*Adult Mission Story**Preparation Day, June 7th, 2024*

Harlin recognized Flor as they passed on the street. As a former police officer, Harlin knew that Flor was willing to sell anything for money to buy drugs and alcohol.

Flor also recognized Harlin. The two women lived only a block apart in a town in Costa Rica. They had exchanged greetings over the years, but never anything more.

On this day, Harlin felt a desire to say more than a simple "hello."

"How are you?" she asked. "How's your life?"

"Everything is bad," Flor replied, glumly.

Harlin looked closely at the woman.

"Do you have anything to eat?" she asked.

Flor lowered her head and began to cry.

Harlin was walking to the store, and she decided to buy food for Flor.

On the way back home after the store, she stopped at Flor's house and left a bag of rice, a bag of beans, and two pieces of chicken.

The next day, Harlin saw her church pastor outside a bank.

“I have a little food here,” the pastor said, motioning to a bag filled with rice, beans, oil, flour, and other items. “Do you know someone who needs it?”

“Yes,” Harlin said. “I have a neighbour who has nothing to eat.”

“Take this, and give it to her,” he said.

Harlin invited the pastor to go with her.

“Come with me, and you will see where she lives,” she said.

The two went to Flor’s house and gave her the food.

Flor was very grateful.

As they spoke, Harlin asked if she would like to study the Bible. Flor indicated that she would.

The next day, Harlin arrived for the Bible study with a man and three women from her church. Flor’s house was too dilapidated to meet inside, so they sat in her small front yard.

After that, the group met once a week to sing and study the Bible. Flor liked to sing, and she especially liked a song with the words, “Give me a new heart.”

Flor’s heart began to change. She stopped insulting and hitting family members and neighbours who upset her. Her profanity-filled speech grew pure.

Two months into the Bible studies, Costa Rica’s rainy season began, and the group could no longer meet in Flor’s yard without getting wet.

Flor missed the weekly gatherings, and she sought out the company of church members at the Seventh-day Adventist church on Sabbath.

No one invited her to the church. She came on her own.

Two more months passed, and the church pastor asked Flor if she would like to give her heart to Jesus in baptism.

She liked the question. “Yes,” she said. “No one has ever asked me if I wanted to be baptized.”

A short time later, Flor sank under the waters of repentance.

Flor had a well-known reputation in town. Everyone knew her life. Townspeople had seen how it was changing, and they were amazed to see her joyfully walking home after her baptism. Person after person stopped to hug and congratulate her.

Flor was so happy! She hadn’t received a hug in years.

Several months after her baptism, Flor remains a faithful Seventh-day Adventist in Costa Rica.

“I give God thanks for my new life,” she said. “I’m grateful for everything that the church members do for me.”

Harlin credits the Holy Spirit for the transformation in Flor’s life.

She also believes that it was the Holy Spirit who prompted her to say more than “hello” on the day that Flor had no food.

“God is great,” Harlin said. “There is nothing so difficult that He cannot do.”

This mission story provides an inside look at life in Costa Rica and missional challenges there. Part of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help open a center of influence that will share the love of Jesus with children who are at risk of being ensnared in a life of drugs and alcohol. Thank you for planning a generous Thirteenth Sabbath Offering on September 28.

By Andrew McChesney

LESSON 11

“NOT BY FAITH ONLY”

September 7 — September 13

📖 MEMORY VERSE : ‘Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.’ [Habakkuk 2:4]

? STUDY HELP : ✓ The Great Controversy, pages 472

📖 SCRIPTURE : James 2:14-26

🎯 LESSON AIM : To examine the nature of genuine faith.

🗣 INTRODUCTION : ‘The sanctification now gaining prominence in the religious world carries with it a spirit of self-exaltation and a disregard for the law of God that mark it as foreign to the religion of the Bible. Its advocates teach that sanctification is an instantaneous work, by which, through faith alone, they attain to perfect holiness. “Only believe,” say they, “and the blessing is yours.” No further effort on the part of the receiver is supposed to be required. At the same time they deny the authority of the law of God, urging that they are released from obligation to keep the commandments. But is it possible for men to be holy, in accord with the will and character of God, without coming into harmony with the principles which are an expression of His nature and will, and which show what is well pleasing to Him?’—*The Great Controversy*, page 471.

Sabbath – September 7th

1. What basic principle is James at pains to emphasise?

- **James 2:17** —
- **James 2:20** —
- **James 2:26** —

NOTE : ‘The faith we are required to have is not a do-nothing faith; saving faith is that which works by love and purifies the soul. He who will lift up holy hands to God without wrath and doubting will walk intelligently in the way of God’s commandments.’—*Faith & Works*, page 48.

2. Heaven’s Hotline

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E. G. W. Study Help*Sabbath, September 7th, 2024***The Great Controversy,
Chapter 27, Modern Revivals, p. 472**

The desire for an easy religion, that requires no striving, no self-denial, no divorce from the follies of the world, has made the doctrine of faith, and faith only, a popular doctrine; but what saith the Word of God? Says the apostle James: "What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? . . . Wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? See thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? . . . Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only." [James 2:14-24.] {GC88 472.1}

The testimony of the Word of God is against this ensnaring doctrine of faith without works. It is not faith that claims the favour of Heaven without complying with the conditions upon which mercy is to be granted. It is presumption; for genuine faith has its foundation in the promises and provisions of the Scriptures. {GC88 472.2}

Let none deceive themselves with the belief that they can become holy while wilfully violating one of God's requirements. The commission of a known sin silences the witnessing voice of the Spirit, and separates the soul from God. "Sin is the transgression of the law." And "whosoever sins [transgresses the law] hath not seen him, neither known him." [1 John 3:6.] Though John in his epistles dwells so fully upon love, yet he does not hesitate to reveal the true character of that class who claim to be sanctified while living in transgression of the law of God. "He that saith, I know Him, and keeps not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keeps his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected." [1 John 2:4, 5.] Here is the test of every man's profession. We cannot accord holiness to any man without bringing him to the measurement of God's only standard of holiness in Heaven and in earth. If men feel no weight of the moral law, if they belittle and make light of God's precepts, if they break one of the least of these commandments, and teach men so, they shall be of no esteem in the sight of Heaven, and we may know that their claims are without foundation. {GC88 472.3}

Last Day Events***Sabbath, September 7th, 2024******Last Day Events, Chapter 8, pp. 261*****“The Loud Cry”****--****“The Seal of God and the Mark of the Beast”****September 7th****Religious Leaders Will Be Full of Optimism**

But he that hears, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great.

Luke 6:49

When the reasoning of philosophy has banished the fear of God's judgments, when religious teachers are pointing forward to long ages of peace and prosperity, and the world are absorbed in their rounds of business and pleasure, planting and building, feasting and merrymaking, rejecting God's warnings and mocking His messengers—then it is that “*sudden destruction cometh upon them . . . and they shall not escape.*” [1 Thessalonians 5:3]—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 104 (1890).

Come when it may, the day of God will come unawares to the ungodly. When life is going on in its unvarying round; when men are absorbed in pleasure, in business, in traffic, in money-making; when religious leaders are magnifying the world's progress and enlightenment, and the people are lulled in a false security—then, as the midnight thief steals within the unguarded dwelling, so shall sudden destruction come upon the careless and ungodly, “*and they shall not escape.*” [1 Thessalonians 5:3]—*The Great Controversy*, p. 38 (1911).

Daily Scripture**Sabbath, September 7th, 2024****1st Kings Chapter 15****Abijam Reigns in Judah**

- 1Ki 15:1 Now in the eighteenth year of king Jeroboam the son of Nebat reigned Abijam over Judah.
- 1Ki 15:2 Three years reigned he in Jerusalem. And his mother's name *was* Maachah, the daughter of Abishalom.
- 1Ki 15:3 And he walked in all the sins of his father, which he had done before him: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father.
- 1Ki 15:4 Nevertheless for David's sake did the LORD his God give him a lamp in Jerusalem, to set up his son after him, and to establish Jerusalem:
- 1Ki 15:5 Because David did *that which was* right in the eyes of the LORD, and turned not aside from *anything* that he commanded him all the days of his life, save only in the matter of Uriah the Hittite.
- 1Ki 15:6 And there was war between Rehoboam and Jeroboam all the days of his life.
- 1Ki 15:7 Now the rest of the acts of Abijam, and all that he did, *are* they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah? And there was war between Abijam and Jeroboam.
- 1Ki 15:8 And Abijam slept with his fathers; and they buried him in the city of David: and Asa his son reigned in his stead.

Asa Reigns In Judah

- 1Ki 15:9 And in the twentieth year of Jeroboam king of Israel reigned Asa over Judah.
- 1Ki 15:10 And forty and one years reigned he in Jerusalem. And his mother's name *was* Maachah, the daughter of Abishalom.
- 1Ki 15:11 And Asa did *that which was* right in the eyes of the LORD, as *did* David his father.
- 1Ki 15:12 And he took away the sodomites out of the land, and removed all the idols that his fathers had made.
- 1Ki 15:13 And also Maachah his mother, even her he removed from *being* queen, because she had made an idol in a grove; and Asa destroyed her idol, and burnt *it* by the brook Kidron.
- 1Ki 15:14 But the high places were not removed: nevertheless Asa's heart was perfect with the LORD all his days.
- 1Ki 15:15 And he brought in the things which his father had dedicated, and the things which himself had dedicated, into the house of the LORD, silver, and gold, and vessels.
- 1Ki 15:16 And there was war between Asa and Baasha king of Israel all their days.
- 1Ki 15:17 And Baasha king of Israel went up against Judah, and built Ramah, that he might not suffer any to go out or come in to Asa king of Judah.
- 1Ki 15:18 Then Asa took all the silver and the gold *that were* left in the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king's house, and delivered them into the hand of his servants: and king Asa sent them to Benhadad, the son of Tabrimon, the son of Hezion, king of Syria, that dwelt at Damascus, saying,
- 1Ki 15:19 *There is* a league between me and thee, *and* between my father and thy father: behold, I have sent unto thee a present of silver and gold; come and break thy league with Baasha king of Israel, that he may depart from me.
- 1Ki 15:20 So Benhadad hearkened unto king Asa, and sent the captains of the hosts which he had against the cities of Israel, and smote Ijon, and Dan, and Abelbethmaachah, and all Cinneroth, with all the land of Naphtali.
- 1Ki 15:21 And it came to pass, when Baasha heard *thereof*, that he left off building of Ramah, and dwelt in Tirzah.

- 1Ki 15:22 Then king Asa made a proclamation throughout all Judah; none *was* exempted: and they took away the stones of Ramah, and the timber thereof, wherewith Baasha had builded; and king Asa built with them Geba of Benjamin, and Mizpah.
- 1Ki 15:23 The rest of all the acts of Asa, and all his might, and all that he did, and the cities which he built, *are* they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah? Nevertheless in the time of his old age he was diseased in his feet.
- 1Ki 15:24 And Asa slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David his father: and Jehoshaphat his son reigned in his stead.

Nadab Reigns in Israel

- 1Ki 15:25 And Nadab the son of Jeroboam began to reign over Israel in the second year of Asa king of Judah, and reigned over Israel two years.
- 1Ki 15:26 And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the way of his father, and in his sin wherewith he made Israel to sin.
- 1Ki 15:27 And Baasha the son of Ahijah, of the house of Issachar, conspired against him; and Baasha smote him at Gibbethon, which *belonged* to the Philistines; for Nadab and all Israel laid siege to Gibbethon.
- 1Ki 15:28 Even in the third year of Asa king of Judah did Baasha slay him, and reigned in his stead.
- 1Ki 15:29 And it came to pass, when he reigned, *that* he smote all the house of Jeroboam; he left not to Jeroboam any that breathed, until he had destroyed him, according unto the saying of the LORD, which he spake by his servant Ahijah the Shilonite:
- 1Ki 15:30 Because of the sins of Jeroboam which he sinned, and which he made Israel sin, by his provocation wherewith he provoked the LORD God of Israel to anger.
- 1Ki 15:31 Now the rest of the acts of Nadab, and all that he did, *are* they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?
- 1Ki 15:32 And there was war between Asa and Baasha king of Israel all their days.

Baasha Reigns in Israel

- 1Ki 15:33 In the third year of Asa king of Judah began Baasha the son of Ahijah to reign over all Israel in Tirzah, twenty and four years.
- 1Ki 15:34 And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the way of Jeroboam, and in his sin wherewith he made Israel to sin.

*Children's Mission Story**Sabbath, September 7th, 2024*

Seven-year-old Kitona [kit-WANA] had a fiery temper.

At school, she sprang out of her chair when a passing boy lightly brushed against her leg. She raised her fists to fight and yelled, "He hit me!"

Teacher didn't want any fights in her classroom, and she asked the boy what had happened.

"I only brushed against her leg as I walked by," he said. "I didn't do it on purpose."

Other children agreed that he had not done anything to hurt Kitona.

Teacher tried to calm the angry girl.

"He accidentally brushed against you," she said.

But Kitona refused to back down. Her fists were still clenched, and she was breathing heavily. She was sure that the boy had attacked her.

"He hit me!" she screamed.

This is how it was whenever Kitona lost her temper at Ebenezer Seventh-day Adventist Primary School on the Caribbean island nation of Dominica. She did well on her schoolwork. The teachers called her brilliant. But she lacked self-control. If someone touched her or took something that belonged to her, she jumped out of her chair in a rage, ready to fight.

One day, a boy named Keron [KEH-ruhn] took a pencil off Kitona's desk. He wanted to borrow it for his schoolwork.

Kitona was furious. She jumped to her feet, punched Keron in the face, and yelled, "Give it back!"

Keron didn't like being punched in the face, and he swung back.

Soon the boy and girl were on the floor, trading blows.

Then the principal entered the classroom.

"Take your seats," she ordered.

Keron immediately sat down at his desk. Kitona didn't.

"Kitona, take your seat," the principal said.

But Kitona wasn't finished with the fight. Keron had hit her last, and she wanted to land the last blow.

She ran toward Keron.

But the principal stepped forward, blocking her path.

Kitona didn't think that was fair. She had to give the last punch. In a rage, she began to hit the principal.

Kitona only calmed down after the teacher took Keron out of the classroom and she couldn't see him anymore.

Then the principal called Kitona's mother.

As punishment for hitting Keron and the principal, Kitona was suspended from school for three days.

Mother was in tears when she arrived for Kitona. She didn't know what to do. The principal and other teachers cried with Mother. They also didn't know what to do. They loved Kitona, but her temper seemed beyond control.

After talking over the matter, the principal and other teachers decided to shower the girl with love and patience. They also decided to pray.

Then something incredible happened. As weeks and months passed, Kitona became more patient, and the conflicts grew fewer. Finally, the conflicts stopped altogether. The girl once known for her fiery temper became known for being kind and courteous.

When Kitona graduated from school, she felt bad about the way she had acted. She remembered the love and patience that the teachers had shown her. She decided to do something to show her appreciation. She established a special prize called the "Kitona Theophile [THEO-fil] Refinement Award," which is named after her. The prize is for girls and boys who, like her, once lacked self-control but later became kind and courteous. Every year, she presents the prize — which is a glass plaque — to the winning student.

"The love of teachers at Seventh-day Adventist schools are responsible for who I am today," she said.

Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help Kitona's elementary school, Ebenezer Seventh-day Adventist Primary School, expand with a new building in Dominica's capital, Roseau. Thank you for planning to give a generous offering on September 28.

By Andrew McChesney

Sunday – September 8th

1. What did James mean when he used the word ‘works’?

➤ James 1:27 —

NOTE : James, when he talks of ‘works’, is talking of those practical expressions of Christian love which demonstrate that the Spirit of Christ dwells in the heart. In his second chapter, he speaks in practical terms of those professed Christians who defer to the rich and famous, while despising the poor and needy. Such discrimination is, in James’s view, as much a transgression of God’s law as murder or adultery. ‘Wake up, brethren and sisters. Do not be afraid of good works. “Let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.” Do not wait to be told your duty. Open your eyes and see who are around you; make yourselves acquainted with the helpless, afflicted, and needy. Hide not yourselves from them, and seek not to shut out their needs. Who gives the proofs mentioned in James, of possessing pure religion, untainted with selfishness or corruption?’ —*The Adventist Home*, page 451.

2. How did Paul show that faith has to be active, revealing its quality in the works that result?

➤ Galatians 5:6 —

NOTE : ‘Christ has shown His great love for us by giving His life that we should not perish in our sins, that He might clothe us with His salvation. If this divine love is cherished in our hearts, it cements and strengthens our union with those of like faith. “He that dwells in love dwells in God, and God in him” (1 John 4:16). The strengthening of our love for our brethren and sisters strengthens our love for Christ. This principle of love for God, and for those for whom Christ died, needs to be quickened by the Holy Spirit and cemented with brotherly kindness, tenderness; it needs to be strengthened by acts which testify that God is love. This union, which joins heart with heart, is not the result of sentimentalism, but the working of a healthful principle. Faith works by love, and purifies the soul from all selfishness. Thus the soul is perfected in love. And having found grace and mercy through Christ’s precious blood, how can we fail to be tender and merciful?’ —*In Heavenly Places*, page 110.

3. Heaven’s Hotline

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Last Day Events

Sunday, September 8th, 2024

Last Day Events, Chapter 9, pp. 262

“The Close of Probation”

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“The Seven Last Plagues and the Wicked”

September 8th

Satan Infers That Probation Has Closed

By the swords of the mighty will I cause thy multitude to fall, the terrible of the nations, all of them: and they shall spoil the pomp of Egypt, and all the multitude thereof shall be destroyed.

Ezekiel 32:12

In the time of trouble Satan stirs up the wicked, and they encircle the people of God to destroy them. But he does not know that "pardon" has been written opposite their names in the books of heaven.—*The Review and Herald Nov. 19, 1908.*

As Satan influenced Esau to march against Jacob, so he will stir up the wicked to destroy God's people in the time of trouble. . . . He sees that holy angels are guarding them, and he infers that their sins have been pardoned, but he does not know that their cases have been decided in the sanctuary above.—*The Great Controversy, p. 618 (1911).*

Daily Scripture**Sunday, September 8th, 2024****1st Kings Chapter 16**

- 1Ki 16:1 Then the word of the LORD came to Jehu the son of Hanani against Baasha, saying,
1Ki 16:2 Forasmuch as I exalted thee out of the dust, and made thee prince over my people Israel; and thou hast walked in the way of Jeroboam, and hast made my people Israel to sin, to provoke me to anger with their sins;
1Ki 16:3 Behold, I will take away the posterity of Baasha, and the posterity of his house; and will make thy house like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat.
1Ki 16:4 Him that dies of Baasha in the city shall the dogs eat; and him that dies of his in the fields shall the fowls of the air eat.
1Ki 16:5 Now the rest of the acts of Baasha, and what he did, and his might, *are* they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?
1Ki 16:6 So Baasha slept with his fathers, and was buried in Tirzah: and Elah his son reigned in his stead.
1Ki 16:7 And also by the hand of the prophet Jehu the son of Hanani came the word of the LORD against Baasha, and against his house, even for all the evil that he did in the sight of the LORD, in provoking him to anger with the work of his hands, in being like the house of Jeroboam; and because he killed him.

Elah Reigns in Israel

- 1Ki 16:8 In the twenty and sixth year of Asa king of Judah began Elah the son of Baasha to reign over Israel in Tirzah, two years.
1Ki 16:9 And his servant Zimri, captain of half *his* chariots, conspired against him, as he was in Tirzah, drinking himself drunk in the house of Arza steward of *his* house in Tirzah.
1Ki 16:10 And Zimri went in and smote him, and killed him, in the twenty and seventh year of Asa king of Judah, and reigned in his stead.
1Ki 16:11 And it came to pass, when he began to reign, as soon as he sat on his throne, *that* he slew all the house of Baasha: he left him not one that pisses against a wall, neither of his kinsfolks, nor of his friends.
1Ki 16:12 Thus did Zimri destroy all the house of Baasha, according to the word of the LORD, which he spoke against Baasha by Jehu the prophet,
1Ki 16:13 For all the sins of Baasha, and the sins of Elah his son, by which they sinned, and by which they made Israel to sin, in provoking the LORD God of Israel to anger with their vanities.
1Ki 16:14 Now the rest of the acts of Elah, and all that he did, *are* they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?

Zimri Reigns in Israel

- 1Ki 16:15 In the twenty and seventh year of Asa king of Judah did Zimri reign seven days in Tirzah. And the people *were* encamped against Gibbethon, which *belonged* to the Philistines.
1Ki 16:16 And the people *that were* encamped heard say, Zimri hath conspired, and hath also slain the king: wherefore all Israel made Omri, the captain of the host, king over Israel that day in the camp.
1Ki 16:17 And Omri went up from Gibbethon, and all Israel with him, and they besieged Tirzah.
1Ki 16:18 And it came to pass, when Zimri saw that the city was taken, that he went into the palace of the king's house, and burnt the king's house over him with fire, and died,
1Ki 16:19 For his sins which he sinned in doing evil in the sight of the LORD, in walking in the way of Jeroboam, and in his sin which he did, to make Israel to sin.
1Ki 16:20 Now the rest of the acts of Zimri, and his treason that he wrought, *are* they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?

Omri Reigns in Israel

- 1Ki 16:21 Then were the people of Israel divided into two parts: half of the people followed Tibni the son of Ginath, to make him king; and half followed Omri.
- 1Ki 16:22 But the people that followed Omri prevailed against the people that followed Tibni the son of Ginath: so Tibni died, and Omri reigned.
- 1Ki 16:23 In the thirty and first year of Asa king of Judah began Omri to reign over Israel, twelve years: six years reigned he in Tirzah.
- 1Ki 16:24 And he bought the hill Samaria of Shemer for two talents of silver, and built on the hill, and called the name of the city which he built, after the name of Shemer, owner of the hill, Samaria.
- 1Ki 16:25 But Omri wrought evil in the eyes of the LORD, and did worse than all that *were* before him.
- 1Ki 16:26 For he walked in all the way of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and in his sin wherewith he made Israel to sin, to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger with their vanities.
- 1Ki 16:27 Now the rest of the acts of Omri which he did, and his might that he shewed, *are* they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?
- 1Ki 16:28 So Omri slept with his fathers, and was buried in Samaria: and Ahab his son reigned in his stead.

Ahab Reigns in Israel

- 1Ki 16:29 And in the thirty and eighth year of Asa king of Judah began Ahab the son of Omri to reign over Israel: and Ahab the son of Omri reigned over Israel in Samaria twenty and two years.
- 1Ki 16:30 And Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD above all that *were* before him.
- 1Ki 16:31 And it came to pass, as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took to wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Zidonians, and went and served Baal, and worshipped him.
- 1Ki 16:32 And he reared up an altar for Baal in the house of Baal, which he had built in Samaria.
- 1Ki 16:33 And Ahab made a grove; and Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel that were before him.
- 1Ki 16:34 In his days did Hiel the Bethelite build Jericho: he laid the foundation thereof in Abiram his firstborn, and set up the gates thereof in his youngest *son* Segub, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by Joshua the son of Nun.

Monday – September 9th

1. How does the Bible describe the works that result from faith?

➤ James 2:21-25 —

➤ Hebrews 11 —

NOTE : ‘Righteousness is right doing, and it is by their deeds that all will be judged. Our characters are revealed by what we do. The works show whether the faith is genuine. It is not enough for us to believe that Jesus is not an impostor, and that the religion of the Bible is no cunningly devised fable. We may believe that the name of Jesus is the only name under heaven whereby man may be saved, and yet we may not through faith make Him our personal Saviour. It is not enough to believe the theory of truth. It is not enough to make a profession of faith in Christ and have our names registered on the church roll. “He that keeps His commandments dwells in Him, and He in him. And hereby we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit which He hath given us.” “Hereby we do know that we know Him if we keep His commandments.” 1 John 3:24; 2:3. This is the genuine evidence of conversion. Whatever our profession, it amounts to nothing unless Christ is revealed in works of righteousness.’ —*Christ’s Object Lessons*, page 312.

‘You profess to believe the truth; let your works testify to the fact. Unless your faith works, it is dead.’ —*Spiritual Gifts*, volume 2, page 231.

2. What examples does James give to show the kind of ‘faith’ that does not reveal itself in works of love?

➤ James 2:15-16 —

NOTE : ‘The religion of the Bible comprises not only faith but works. The Christian is not simply to believe on Christ, but to do the will of God. Genuine love to God will open the heart, and make a man liberal and charitable. He will know what it means to hunger and thirst after righteousness, and will continually desire that the power and grace of Christ shall be expressed in his life, that glory may redound to God. Every opportunity to do good to those for whom Christ died will be sought out and improved. The love of God will transform the character, and fashion it after the lovely character of Christ. The apostle says, “Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this: To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.”’ —*Signs of the Times*, February 24, 1890.

3. Heaven’s Hotline

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Last Day Events

Monday, September 9th, 2024

Last Day Events, Chapter 9, pp. 263

“The Close of Probation”

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“The Seven Last Plagues and the Wicked”

September 9th

A Famine for the Word

And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find it.

Amos 8:12

Those who do not now appreciate, study, and dearly prize the Word of God spoken by His servants will have cause to mourn bitterly hereafter. I saw that the Lord in judgment will at the close of time walk through the earth; the fearful plagues will begin to fall. Then those who have despised God's Word, those who have lightly esteemed it, shall "*wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east; they shall run to and fro to seek the Word of the Lord and shall not find it.*" [Amos 8:12] A famine is in the land for hearing the Word.—*Manuscript 1, 1857.*

Daily Scripture**Monday, September 9th, 2024****1st Kings Chapter 17****Elijah Predicts a Drought**

- 1Ki 17:1 And Elijah the Tishbite, *who was* of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, *As* the LORD God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word.
- 1Ki 17:2 And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying,
- 1Ki 17:3 Get thee hence, and turn thee eastward, and hide thyself by the brook Cherith, that *is* before Jordan.
- 1Ki 17:4 And it shall be, *that* thou shalt drink of the brook; and I have commanded the ravens to feed thee there.
- 1Ki 17:5 So he went and did according unto the word of the LORD: for he went and dwelt by the brook Cherith, that *is* before Jordan.
- 1Ki 17:6 And the ravens brought him bread and flesh in the morning, and bread and flesh in the evening; and he drank of the brook.
- 1Ki 17:7 And it came to pass after a while, that the brook dried up, because there had been no rain in the land.

The Widow of Zarephath

- 1Ki 17:8 And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying,
- 1Ki 17:9 Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which *belongs* to Zidon, and dwell there: behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee.
- 1Ki 17:10 So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, the widow woman *was* there gathering of sticks: and he called to her, and said, Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink.
- 1Ki 17:11 And as she was going to fetch *it*, he called to her, and said, Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thine hand.
- 1Ki 17:12 And she said, *As* the LORD thy God lives, I have not a cake, but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse: and, behold, I *am* gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die.
- 1Ki 17:13 And Elijah said unto her, Fear not; go *and* do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring *it* unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son.
- 1Ki 17:14 For thus saith the LORD God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day *that* the LORD sends rain upon the earth.
- 1Ki 17:15 And she went and did according to the saying of Elijah: and she, and he, and her house, did eat *many* days.
- 1Ki 17:16 *And* the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by Elijah.

Elijah Raises the Widow's Son

- 1Ki 17:17 And it came to pass after these things, *that* the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, fell sick; and his sickness was so sore, that there was no breath left in him.
- 1Ki 17:18 And she said unto Elijah, What have I to do with thee, O thou man of God? art thou come unto me to call my sin to remembrance, and to slay my son?
- 1Ki 17:19 And he said unto her, Give me thy son. And he took him out of her bosom, and carried him up into a loft, where he abode, and laid him upon his own bed.
- 1Ki 17:20 And he cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, hast thou also brought evil upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by slaying her son?

- 1Ki 17:21 And he stretched himself upon the child three times, and cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, I pray thee, let this child's soul come into him again.
- 1Ki 17:22 And the LORD heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came into him again, and he revived.
- 1Ki 17:23 And Elijah took the child, and brought him down out of the chamber into the house, and delivered him unto his mother: and Elijah said, See, thy son lives.
- 1Ki 17:24 And the woman said to Elijah, Now by this I know that thou *art* a man of God, *and* that the word of the LORD in thy mouth *is* truth.

Tuesday – September 10th

1. How did Abraham reveal his faith in God?

➤ **James 2:21** —

NOTE : ‘In order for man to be justified by faith, faith must reach a point where it will control the affections and impulses of the heart; and it is by obedience that faith itself is made perfect.’ —*Faith & Works*, page 100.

‘In ourselves we are incapable of doing any good thing; but that which we cannot do will be wrought by the power of God in every submissive and believing soul... It is through faith that spiritual life is begotten, and we are enabled to do the works of righteousness.’ —*The Desire of Ages*, page 98.

2. What was God’s response to the works that revealed Abraham’s faith?

➤ **James 2:22-23** —

NOTE : “Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the friend of God.” James 2:23. And Paul says, “They which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.” Galatians 3:7. But Abraham’s faith was made manifest by his works. “Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? See thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?” James 2:21, 22. There are many who fail to understand the relation of faith and works. They say, “Only believe in Christ, and you are safe. You have nothing to do with keeping the law.” But genuine faith will be manifest in obedience. Said Christ to the unbelieving Jews, “If ye were Abraham’s children, ye would do the works of Abraham.” John 8:39. And concerning the father of the faithful the Lord declares, “Abraham obeyed \My voice, and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws.” Genesis 26:5. Says the apostle James, “Faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.” James \2:17. And John, who dwells so fully upon love, tells us, “This is the love of God, that we keep His commandments.” 1 John 5:3.’ — *Patriarchs & Prophets*, page 153.

3. Heaven’s Hotline

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Last Day Events***Tuesday, September 10th, 2024******Last Day Events, Chapter 9, pp. 264*****“The Close of Probation”****--****“The Seven Last Plagues and the Wicked”****September 10th****No More Prayers for the Wicked****Thou hast covered thyself with a cloud, that our prayer should not pass through.****Lamentations 3:44**

The ministers of God will have done their last work, offered their last prayers, shed their last bitter tear for a rebellious church and an ungodly people. Their last solemn warning has been given. Oh, then how quickly would houses and lands, dollars that have been miserly hoarded and cherished and tightly grasped, be given for some consolation by those who have professed the truth and have not lived it out, for the way of salvation to be explained, or to hear a hopeful word or a prayer or an exhortation from their ministers. But no, they must hunger and thirst on in vain; their thirst will never be quenched, no consolation can they get. Their cases are decided and eternally fixed. It is a fearful, awful time.—*Manuscript 1, 1857.*

In the time when God's judgments are falling without mercy, oh, how enviable to the wicked will be the position of those who abide "*in the secret place of the Most High*" [Psalm 91:1]—the pavilion in which the Lord hides all who have loved Him and have obeyed His commandments! The lot of the righteous is indeed an enviable one at such a time to those who are suffering because of their sins. But the door of mercy is closed to the wicked. No more prayers are offered in their behalf after probation ends.—*SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 3, p. 1150 (1901).*

Daily Scripture**Tuesday, September 10th, 2024****1st Kings Chapter 18****Elijah Confronts Ahab**

- 1Ki 18:1 And it came to pass *after* many days, that the word of the LORD came to Elijah in the third year, saying, Go, shew thyself unto Ahab; and I will send rain upon the earth.
- 1Ki 18:2 And Elijah went to shew himself unto Ahab. And *there was* a sore famine in Samaria.
- 1Ki 18:3 And Ahab called Obadiah, which *was* the governor of *his* house. (Now Obadiah feared the LORD greatly:
- 1Ki 18:4 For it was *so*, when Jezebel cut off the prophets of the LORD, that Obadiah took an hundred prophets, and hid them by fifty in a cave, and fed them with bread and water.)
- 1Ki 18:5 And Ahab said unto Obadiah, Go into the land, unto all fountains of water, and unto all brooks: peradventure we may find grass to save the horses and mules alive, that we lose not all the beasts.
- 1Ki 18:6 So they divided the land between them to pass throughout it: Ahab went one way by himself, and Obadiah went another way by himself.
- 1Ki 18:7 And as Obadiah was in the way, behold, Elijah met him: and he knew him, and fell on his face, and said, *Art* thou that my lord Elijah?
- 1Ki 18:8 And he answered him, I *am*: go, tell thy lord, Behold, Elijah *is here*.
- 1Ki 18:9 And he said, What have I sinned, that thou would deliver thy servant into the hand of Ahab, to slay me?
- 1Ki 18:10 *As* the LORD thy God lives, there is no nation or kingdom, whither my lord hath not sent to seek thee: and when they said, *He is not there*; he took an oath of the kingdom and nation, that they found thee not.
- 1Ki 18:11 And now thou say, Go, tell thy lord, Behold, Elijah *is here*.
- 1Ki 18:12 And it shall come to pass, *as soon as* I am gone from thee, that the Spirit of the LORD shall carry thee whither I know not; and *so* when I come and tell Ahab, and he cannot find thee, he shall slay me: but I thy servant fear the LORD from my youth.
- 1Ki 18:13 Was it not told my lord what I did when Jezebel slew the prophets of the LORD, how I hid an hundred men of the LORD'S prophets by fifty in a cave, and fed them with bread and water?
- 1Ki 18:14 And now thou say, Go, tell thy lord, Behold, Elijah *is here*: and he shall slay me.
- 1Ki 18:15 And Elijah said, *As* the LORD of hosts lives, before whom I stand, I will surely shew myself unto him to day.
- 1Ki 18:16 So Obadiah went to meet Ahab, and told him: and Ahab went to meet Elijah.
- 1Ki 18:17 And it came to pass, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said unto him, *Art* thou he that troubles Israel?
- 1Ki 18:18 And he answered, I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the LORD, and thou hast followed Baalim.
- 1Ki 18:19 Now therefore send, *and* gather to me all Israel unto mount Carmel, and the prophets of Baal four hundred and fifty, and the prophets of the groves four hundred, which eat at Jezebel's table.

The Prophets of Baal Defeated

- 1Ki 18:20 So Ahab sent unto all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together unto mount Carmel.
- 1Ki 18:21 And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD *be* God, follow him: but if Baal, *then* follow him. And the people answered him not a word.
- 1Ki 18:22 Then said Elijah unto the people, I, *even* I only, remain a prophet of the LORD; but Baal's prophets *are* four hundred and fifty men.
- 1Ki 18:23 Let them therefore give us two bullocks; and let them choose one bullock for themselves, and cut it in pieces, and lay *it* on wood, and put no fire *under*: and I will dress the other bullock, and lay *it* on wood, and put no fire *under*:

- 1Ki 18:24 And call ye on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD: and the God that answers by fire, let him be God. And all the people answered and said, It is well spoken.
- 1Ki 18:25 And Elijah said unto the prophets of Baal, Choose you one bullock for yourselves, and dress *it* first; for ye *are* many; and call on the name of your gods, but put no fire *under*.
- 1Ki 18:26 And they took the bullock which was given them, and they dressed *it*, and called on the name of Baal from morning even until noon, saying, O Baal, hear us. But *there was* no voice, nor any that answered. And they leaped upon the altar which was made.
- 1Ki 18:27 And it came to pass at noon, that Elijah mocked them, and said, Cry aloud: for he *is* a god; either he is talking, or he is pursuing, or he is in a journey, *or* peradventure he sleeps, and must be awaked.
- 1Ki 18:28 And they cried aloud, and cut themselves after their manner with knives and lancets, till the blood gushed out upon them.
- 1Ki 18:29 And it came to pass, when midday was past, and they prophesied until the *time* of the offering of the *evening* sacrifice, that *there was* neither voice, nor any to answer, nor any that regarded.
- 1Ki 18:30 And Elijah said unto all the people, Come near unto me. And all the people came near unto him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD *that was* broken down.
- 1Ki 18:31 And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, unto whom the word of the LORD came, saying, Israel shall be thy name:
- 1Ki 18:32 And with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD: and he made a trench about the altar, as great as would contain two measures of seed.
- 1Ki 18:33 And he put the wood in order, and cut the bullock in pieces, and laid *him* on the wood, and said, Fill four barrels with water, and pour *it* on the burnt sacrifice, and on the wood.
- 1Ki 18:34 And he said, Do *it* the second time. And they did *it* the second time. And he said, Do *it* the third time. And they did *it* the third time.
- 1Ki 18:35 And the water ran round about the altar; and he filled the trench also with water.
- 1Ki 18:36 And it came to pass at *the time of* the offering of the *evening* sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou *art* God in Israel, and *that I am* thy servant, and *that I have* done all these things at thy word.
- 1Ki 18:37 Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that thou *art* the LORD God, and *that* thou hast turned their heart back again.
- 1Ki 18:38 Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that *was* in the trench.
- 1Ki 18:39 And when all the people saw *it*, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, he *is* the God; the LORD, he *is* the God.
- 1Ki 18:40 And Elijah said unto them, Take the prophets of Baal; let not one of them escape. And they took them: and Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon, and slew them there.

The Lord Sends Rain

- 1Ki 18:41 And Elijah said unto Ahab, Get thee up, eat and drink; for *there is* a sound of abundance of rain.
- 1Ki 18:42 So Ahab went up to eat and to drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; and he cast himself down upon the earth, and put his face between his knees,
- 1Ki 18:43 And said to his servant, Go up now, look toward the sea. And he went up, and looked, and said, *There is* nothing. And he said, Go again seven times.
- 1Ki 18:44 And it came to pass at the seventh time, that he said, Behold, there arises a little cloud out of the sea, like a man's hand. And he said, Go up, say unto Ahab, Prepare *thy chariot*, and get thee down, that the rain stop thee not.
- 1Ki 18:45 And it came to pass in the meanwhile, that the heaven was black with clouds and wind, and there was a great rain. And Ahab rode, and went to Jezreel.
- 1Ki 18:46 And the hand of the LORD was on Elijah; and he girded up his loins, and ran before Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.

Wednesday – September 11th

1. How did Rahab demonstrate her faith?

➤ Joshua 2:14-21 —

NOTE : What did the actions of Rahab and Abraham have in common? They both acted in a way that jeopardised their present security because both were trusting in God to safeguard their future. Taking such risks is of the essence of faith. Faith is having enough confidence in God to act on one's convictions, that is, when these convictions are rooted in the will of God. This kind of faith is in stark contrast to much that often passes for faith today. Today people are often told that they have become Christians and are eligible for baptism on no other ground than 'a profession of faith,' what they say in words. James would have nothing of this. For James possession, rather than profession, of faith was what counts. The evidence of possession of faith will be visible, rather than merely audible; it will be discerned by observing what a person does, rather than by listening to what he says.

2. How did James show that what Rahab did, as well as what she said, saved her?

➤ James 2:25 —

➤ Hebrews 11:31 —

NOTE : 'In wicked Jericho the testimony of a heathen woman was, "The Lord your God, He is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath." Joshua 2:11. The knowledge of Jehovah that had thus come to her, proved her salvation. By faith "Rahab perished not with them that believed not." Hebrews 11:31. And her conversion was not an isolated case of God's mercy toward idolaters who acknowledged His divine authority.' —*Prophets & Kings*, page 369.

Rahab not only acknowledged in words her belief in God. She acted on that faith by carrying out the instructions she had been given. And thus, when all Jericho perished, Rahab and her family with her were preserved alive. Compare Joshua 2:18-21 with Joshua 6:22-23.

3. Heaven's Hotline

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Last Day Events***Wednesday, September 11th, 2024******Last Day Events, Chapter 9, pp. 265*****“The Close of Probation”****--****“The Seven Last Plagues and the Wicked”****September 11th****Transfer of Character Not Possible****And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand.****Revelation 22:11**

The Lord is coming in power and great glory. It will then be His work to make a complete separation between the righteous and the wicked. But the oil cannot then be transferred to the vessels of those who have it not. Then shall be fulfilled the words of Christ, "*Two women shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two men shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.*" [Luke 17:35] The righteous and the wicked are to be associated together in the work of life. But the Lord reads the character. He discerns who are obedient children, who respect and love His commandments.—*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 234 (1895)

It is a solemn thing to die, but a far more solemn thing to live. Every thought and word and deed of our lives will meet us again. What we make of ourselves in probationary time, that we must remain to all eternity. Death brings dissolution to the body, but makes no change in the character. The coming of Christ does not change our characters; it only fixes them forever beyond all change.—*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 466 (1885).

*Daily Scripture*Wednesday, September 11th, 2024**1st Kings Chapter 19****Elijah Flees Jezebel**

- 1Ki 19:1 And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and withal how he had slain all the prophets with the sword.
- 1Ki 19:2 Then Jezebel sent a messenger unto Elijah, saying, So let the gods do *to me*, and more also, if I make not thy life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time.
- 1Ki 19:3 And when he saw *that*, he arose, and went for his life, and came to Beersheba, which *belongs* to Judah, and left his servant there.
- 1Ki 19:4 But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life; for I *am* not better than my fathers.
- 1Ki 19:5 And as he lay and slept under a juniper tree, behold, then an angel touched him, and said unto him, Arise *and* eat.
- 1Ki 19:6 And he looked, and, behold, *there was* a cake baked on the coals, and a cruse of water at his head. And he did eat and drink, and laid him down again.
- 1Ki 19:7 And the angel of the LORD came again the second time, and touched him, and said, Arise *and* eat; because the journey *is* too great for thee.
- 1Ki 19:8 And he arose, and did eat and drink, and went in the strength of that meat forty days and forty nights unto Horeb the mount of God.

The Lord Speaks to Elijah

- 1Ki 19:9 And he came thither unto a cave, and lodged there; and, behold, the word of the LORD *came* to him, and he said unto him, What do thou here, Elijah?
- 1Ki 19:10 And he said, I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, *even* I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.
- 1Ki 19:11 And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the LORD. And, behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the LORD; *but* the LORD *was* not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; *but* the LORD *was* not in the earthquake:
- 1Ki 19:12 And after the earthquake a fire; *but* the LORD *was* not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice.
- 1Ki 19:13 And it was *so*, when Elijah heard *it*, that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out, and stood in the entering in of the cave. And, behold, *there came* a voice unto him, and said, What do thou here, Elijah?
- 1Ki 19:14 And he said, I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: because the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, *even* I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.
- 1Ki 19:15 And the LORD said unto him, Go, return on thy way to the wilderness of Damascus: and when thou come, anoint Hazael *to be* king over Syria:
- 1Ki 19:16 And Jehu the son of Nimshi shalt thou anoint *to be* king over Israel: and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abelmeholah shalt thou anoint *to be* prophet in thy room.
- 1Ki 19:17 And it shall come to pass, *that* him that escape the sword of Hazael shall Jehu slay: and him that escapes from the sword of Jehu shall Elisha slay.
- 1Ki 19:18 Yet I have left *me* seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him.

The Call of Elisha

- 1Ki 19:19 So he departed thence, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who *was* ploughing *with* twelve yoke of *oxen* before him, and he with the twelfth: and Elijah passed by him, and cast his mantle upon him.
- 1Ki 19:20 And he left the oxen, and ran after Elijah, and said, Let me, I pray thee, kiss my father and my mother, and *then* I will follow thee. And he said unto him, Go back again: for what have I done to thee?
- 1Ki 19:21 And he returned back from him, and took a yoke of oxen, and slew them, and boiled their flesh with the instruments of the oxen, and gave unto the people, and they did eat. Then he arose, and went after Elijah, and ministered unto him.

Thursday – September 12th

1. How does James show that belief is not enough for salvation?

➤ James 2:19 —

NOTE : ‘It is important that we understand clearly the nature of faith. There are many who believe that Christ is the Saviour of the world, that the gospel is true and reveals the plan of salvation, yet they do not possess saving faith. They are intellectually convinced of the truth, but this is not enough; in order to be justified, the sinner must have that faith that appropriates the merits of Christ to his own soul. We read that the devils “believe, and tremble,” but their belief does not bring them justification, neither will the belief of those who give a merely intellectual assent to the truths of the Bible bring them the benefits of salvation. This belief fails of reaching the vital point, for the truth does not engage the heart or transform the character.’ —*Selected Messages, book 3, page 191.*

2. Heaven’s Hotline

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Last Day Events***Thursday, September 12th, 2024******Last Day Events, Chapter 9, pp. 266*****“The Close of Probation”****--****“The Seven Last Plagues and the Wicked”****September 12th****Another Probation Would Not Convince the Wicked****Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not;****2 Corinthians 4:1**

We are to make the best of our present opportunities. There will be no other probation given to us in which to prepare for heaven. This is our only and last opportunity to form characters which will fit us for the future home which the Lord has prepared for all who are obedient to His commandments.—*Letter 20, 1899.*

There will be no probation after the coming of the Lord. Those who say that there will be are deceived and misled. Before Christ comes just such a state of things will exist as existed before the Flood. And after the Saviour appears in the clouds of heaven no one will be given another chance to gain salvation. All will have made their decisions.—*Letter 45, 1891.*

All will be tested and tried according to the light they have had. Those who turn from the truth to fables can look for no second probation. There will be no temporal millennium. If, after the Holy Spirit has brought conviction to their hearts, they resist the truth and use their influence to block the way so that others will not receive it, they will never be convinced. They did not seek for transformation of character in the probation given them, and Christ will not give them opportunity

Daily Scripture**Thursday, September 12th, 2024****1st Kings Chapter 20****Ahab's Wars with Syria**

- 1Ki 20:1 And Benhadad the king of Syria gathered all his host together: and *there were* thirty and two kings with him, and horses, and chariots: and he went up and besieged Samaria, and warred against it.
- 1Ki 20:2 And he sent messengers to Ahab king of Israel into the city, and said unto him, Thus saith Benhadad,
- 1Ki 20:3 Thy silver and thy gold *is* mine; thy wives also and thy children, *even* the goodliest, *are* mine.
- 1Ki 20:4 And the king of Israel answered and said, My lord, O king, according to thy saying, I *am* thine, and all that I have.
- 1Ki 20:5 And the messengers came again, and said, Thus speaks Benhadad, saying, Although I have sent unto thee, saying, Thou shalt deliver me thy silver, and thy gold, and thy wives, and thy children;
- 1Ki 20:6 Yet I will send my servants unto thee tomorrow about this time, and they shall search thine house, and the houses of thy servants; and it shall be, *that* whatsoever is pleasant in thine eyes, they shall put *it* in their hand, and take *it* away.
- 1Ki 20:7 Then the king of Israel called all the elders of the land, and said, Mark, I pray you, and see how this *man* seeks mischief: for he sent unto me for my wives, and for my children, and for my silver, and for my gold; and I denied him not.
- 1Ki 20:8 And all the elders and all the people said unto him, Hearken not *unto him*, nor consent.
- 1Ki 20:9 Wherefore he said unto the messengers of Benhadad, Tell my lord the king, All that thou didst send for to thy servant at the first I will do: but this thing I may not do. And the messengers departed, and brought him word again.
- 1Ki 20:10 And Benhadad sent unto him, and said, The gods do so unto me, and more also, if the dust of Samaria shall suffice for handfuls for all the people that follow me.
- 1Ki 20:11 And the king of Israel answered and said, Tell *him*, Let not him that girds on *his harness* boast himself as he that puts it off.
- 1Ki 20:12 And it came to pass, when *Benhadad* heard this message, as he *was* drinking, he and the kings in the pavilions, that he said unto his servants, Set *yourselves in array*. And they set *themselves in array* against the city.

Ahab Defeats Benhadad

- 1Ki 20:13 And, behold, there came a prophet unto Ahab king of Israel, saying, Thus saith the LORD, Hast thou seen all this great multitude? behold, I will deliver it into thine hand this day; and thou shalt know that I *am* the LORD.
- 1Ki 20:14 And Ahab said, By whom? And he said, Thus saith the LORD, *Even* by the young men of the princes of the provinces. Then he said, Who shall order the battle? And he answered, Thou.
- 1Ki 20:15 Then he numbered the young men of the princes of the provinces, and they were two hundred and thirty two: and after them he numbered all the people, *even* all the children of Israel, *being* seven thousand.
- 1Ki 20:16 And they went out at noon. But Benhadad *was* drinking himself drunk in the pavilions, he and the kings, the thirty and two kings that helped him.
- 1Ki 20:17 And the young men of the princes of the provinces went out first; and Benhadad sent out, and they told him, saying, There are men come out of Samaria.
- 1Ki 20:18 And he said, Whether they be come out for peace, take them alive; or whether they be come out for war, take them alive.
- 1Ki 20:19 So these young men of the princes of the provinces came out of the city, and the army which followed them.

- 1Ki 20:20 And they slew everyone his man: and the Syrians fled; and Israel pursued them: and Benhadad the king of Syria escaped on an horse with the horsemen.
- 1Ki 20:21 And the king of Israel went out, and smote the horses and chariots, and slew the Syrians with a great slaughter.
- 1Ki 20:22 And the prophet came to the king of Israel, and said unto him, Go, strengthen thyself, and mark, and see what thou do: for at the return of the year the king of Syria will come up against thee.
- 1Ki 20:23 And the servants of the king of Syria said unto him, Their gods *are* gods of the hills; therefore they were stronger than we; but let us fight against them in the plain, and surely we shall be stronger than they.
- 1Ki 20:24 And do this thing, Take the kings away, every man out of his place, and put captains in their rooms:
- 1Ki 20:25 And number thee an army, like the army that thou hast lost, horse for horse, and chariot for chariot: and we will fight against them in the plain, *and* surely we shall be stronger than they. And he hearkened unto their voice, and did so.

Ahab Defeats Benhadad Again

- 1Ki 20:26 And it came to pass at the return of the year, that Benhadad numbered the Syrians, and went up to Aphek, to fight against Israel.
- 1Ki 20:27 And the children of Israel were numbered, and were all present, and went against them: and the children of Israel pitched before them like two little flocks of kids; but the Syrians filled the country.
- 1Ki 20:28 And there came a man of God, and spake unto the king of Israel, and said, Thus saith the LORD, Because the Syrians have said, The LORD *is* God of the hills, but he *is* not God of the valleys, therefore will I deliver all this great multitude into thine hand, and ye shall know that I *am* the LORD.
- 1Ki 20:29 And they pitched one over against the other seven days. And *so* it was, that in the seventh day the battle was joined: and the children of Israel slew of the Syrians an hundred thousand footmen in one day.
- 1Ki 20:30 But the rest fled to Aphek, into the city; and *there* a wall fell upon twenty and seven thousand of the men *that were* left. And Benhadad fled, and came into the city, into an inner chamber.
- 1Ki 20:31 And his servants said unto him, Behold now, we have heard that the kings of the house of Israel *are* merciful kings: let us, I pray thee, put sackcloth on our loins, and ropes upon our heads, and go out to the king of Israel: peradventure he will save thy life.
- 1Ki 20:32 So they girded sackcloth on their loins, and *put* ropes on their heads, and came to the king of Israel, and said, Thy servant Benhadad saith, I pray thee, let me live. And he said, *Is* he yet alive? he *is* my brother.
- 1Ki 20:33 Now the men did diligently observe whether *anything would come* from him, and did hastily catch *it*: and they said, Thy brother Benhadad. Then he said, Go ye, bring him. Then Benhadad came forth to him; and he caused him to come up into the chariot.
- 1Ki 20:34 And *Benhadad* said unto him, The cities, which my father took from thy father, I will restore; and thou shalt make streets for thee in Damascus, as my father made in Samaria. Then *said Ahab*, I will send thee away with this covenant. So he made a covenant with him, and sent him away.

A Prophet Condemns Benhadad's Release

- 1Ki 20:35 And a certain man of the sons of the prophets said unto his neighbour in the word of the LORD, Smite me, I pray thee. And the man refused to smite him.
- 1Ki 20:36 Then said he unto him, Because thou hast not obeyed the voice of the LORD, behold, as soon as thou art departed from me, a lion shall slay thee. And as soon as he was departed from him, a lion found him, and slew him.
- 1Ki 20:37 Then he found another man, and said, Smite me, I pray thee. And the man smote him, so that in smiting he wounded *him*.
- 1Ki 20:38 So the prophet departed, and waited for the king by the way, and disguised himself with ashes upon his face.
- 1Ki 20:39 And as the king passed by, he cried unto the king: and he said, Thy servant went out into the midst of the battle; and, behold, a man turned aside, and brought a man unto me, and said, Keep this man: if by any means he be missing, then shall thy life be for his life, or else thou shalt pay a talent of silver.

- 1Ki 20:40 And as thy servant was busy here and there, he was gone. And the king of Israel said unto him, So *shall* thy judgment *be*; thyself hast decided *it*.
- 1Ki 20:41 And he hasted, and took the ashes away from his face; and the king of Israel discerned him that he *was* of the prophets.
- 1Ki 20:42 And he said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Because thou hast let go out of *thy* hand a man whom I appointed to utter destruction, therefore thy life shall go for his life, and thy people for his people.
- 1Ki 20:43 And the king of Israel went to his house heavy and displeased, and came to Samaria.

*Preparation Day – September 13th***1. What powerful analogy does James draw?**

➤ **James 2:26** —

NOTE : Just as a body that is not breathing is dead, so faith without works is dead also. Works, those practical expressions of Christian love which demonstrate that the Spirit of Christ dwells in the heart, are the breath of the faithful soul. James wants to make sure that we realise that faith is not simply the articulation of a sound theology. Faith is not so much accepting the truth of God's Word as acting upon it. Profession without practice is as useless to ourselves as sympathy without help is useless for others. Such a 'faith' cannot save. It is dead.

'Our faith should be prolific of good works; for faith without works is dead. Every duty performed, every sacrifice made in the name of Jesus, brings an exceeding great reward. In the very act of duty, God speaks and gives His blessing.' —*Signs of the Times*, May 19, 1898

2. Heaven's Hotline

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Last Day Events

Preparation Day, September 13th, 2024

Last Day Events, Chapter 9, pp. 267

“The Close of Probation”

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“The Seven Last Plagues and the Wicked”

September 13th

The Vials of God's Wrath Will Be Poured Out

And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth.

Revelation 16:1

Solemn events before us are yet to transpire. Trumpet after trumpet is to be sounded; vial after vial poured out one after another upon the inhabitants of the earth.—*Selected Messages, Book 3, p. 426 (1890).*

The world is soon to be left by the angel of mercy and the seven last plagues are to be poured out. . . . The bolts of God's wrath are soon to fall, and when He shall begin to punish the transgressors there will be no period of respite until the end.—*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers, p. 182 (1894).*

Daily Scripture**Preparation Day, September 13th, 2024****1st Kings Chapter 21****Naboth's Vineyard**

- 1Ki 21:1 And it came to pass after these things, *that* Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard, which *was* in Jezreel, hard by the palace of Ahab king of Samaria.
- 1Ki 21:2 And Ahab spake unto Naboth, saying, Give me thy vineyard, that I may have it for a garden of herbs, because it *is* near unto my house: and I will give thee for it a better vineyard than it; *or*, if it seems good to thee, I will give thee the worth of it in money.
- 1Ki 21:3 And Naboth said to Ahab, The LORD forbid it me, that I should give the inheritance of my fathers unto thee.
- 1Ki 21:4 And Ahab came into his house heavy and displeased because of the word which Naboth the Jezreelite had spoken to him: for he had said, I will not give thee the inheritance of my fathers. And he laid him down upon his bed, and turned away his face, and would eat no bread.
- 1Ki 21:5 But Jezebel his wife came to him, and said unto him, Why is thy spirit so sad, that thou eat no bread?
- 1Ki 21:6 And he said unto her, Because I spake unto Naboth the Jezreelite, and said unto him, Give me thy vineyard for money; or else, if it please thee, I will give thee *another* vineyard for it: and he answered, I will not give thee my vineyard.
- 1Ki 21:7 And Jezebel his wife said unto him, Do thou now govern the kingdom of Israel? arise, *and* eat bread, and let thine heart be merry: I will give thee the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite.
- 1Ki 21:8 So she wrote letters in Ahab's name, and sealed *them* with his seal, and sent the letters unto the elders and to the nobles that *were* in his city, dwelling with Naboth.
- 1Ki 21:9 And she wrote in the letters, saying, Proclaim a fast, and set Naboth on high among the people:
- 1Ki 21:10 And set two men, sons of Belial, before him, to bear witness against him, saying, Thou didst blaspheme God and the king. And *then* carry him out, and stone him, that he may die.
- 1Ki 21:11 And the men of his city, *even* the elders and the nobles who were the inhabitants in his city, did as Jezebel had sent unto them, *and* as it *was* written in the letters which she had sent unto them.
- 1Ki 21:12 They proclaimed a fast, and set Naboth on high among the people.
- 1Ki 21:13 And there came in two men, children of Belial, and sat before him: and the men of Belial witnessed against him, *even* against Naboth, in the presence of the people, saying, Naboth did blaspheme God and the king. Then they carried him forth out of the city, and stoned him with stones, that he died.
- 1Ki 21:14 Then they sent to Jezebel, saying, Naboth is stoned, and is dead.
- 1Ki 21:15 And it came to pass, when Jezebel heard that Naboth was stoned, and was dead, that Jezebel said to Ahab, Arise, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, which he refused to give thee for money: for Naboth is not alive, but dead.
- 1Ki 21:16 And it came to pass, when Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, that Ahab rose up to go down to the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, to take possession of it.

The Lord Condemns Ahab

- 1Ki 21:17 And the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying,
- 1Ki 21:18 Arise, go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, which *is* in Samaria: behold, *he is* in the vineyard of Naboth, whither he is gone down to possess it.
- 1Ki 21:19 And thou shalt speak unto him, saying, Thus saith the LORD, Hast thou killed, and also taken possession? And thou shalt speak unto him, saying, Thus saith the LORD, In the place where dogs licked the blood of Naboth shall dogs lick thy blood, *even* thine.
- 1Ki 21:20 And Ahab said to Elijah, Hast thou found me, O mine enemy? And he answered, I have found *thee*: because thou hast sold thyself to work evil in the sight of the LORD.

- 1Ki 21:21 Behold, I will bring evil upon thee, and will take away thy posterity, and will cut off from Ahab him that pisses against the wall, and him that is shut up and left in Israel,
- 1Ki 21:22 And will make thine house like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and like the house of Baasha the son of Ahijah, for the provocation wherewith thou hast provoked *me* to anger, and made Israel to sin.
- 1Ki 21:23 And of Jezebel also spake the LORD, saying, The dogs shall eat Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel.
- 1Ki 21:24 Him that dies of Ahab in the city the dogs shall eat; and him that dies in the field shall the fowls of the air eat.

Ahab's Repentance

- 1Ki 21:25 But there was none like unto Ahab, which did sell himself to work wickedness in the sight of the LORD, whom Jezebel his wife stirred up.
- 1Ki 21:26 And he did very abominably in following idols, according to all *things* as did the Amorites, whom the LORD cast out before the children of Israel.
- 1Ki 21:27 And it came to pass, when Ahab heard those words, that he rent his clothes, and put sackcloth upon his flesh, and fasted, and lay in sackcloth, and went softly.
- 1Ki 21:28 And the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying,
- 1Ki 21:29 See thou how Ahab humbles himself before me? because he humbles himself before me, I will not bring the evil in his days: *but* in his son's days will I bring the evil upon his house.

*Adult Mission Story**Preparation Day, September 13th, 2024*

Jahiquel [JAY-kel] was a poor boy living in a poor family in Costa Rica. Growing up, he didn't have much of anything. But when he was 16, he started wearing a thick gold chain around his neck and gold rings on his fingers.

The neighbourhood gang got suspicious. The gang leader, nicknamed "The Devil," thought Jahiquel might be dealing drugs without his consent. He instructed a gang member to contact Jahiquel via social media and ask, "Is your chain made of real gold?"

Jahiquel was proud that he owned real gold jewellery, and he sent a one-word reply, "Yes." He knew that the message had come from a gang member. He had once belonged to the gang, but he had left it to join a different gang. Now, instead of selling drugs, he was robbing homes and kidnapping people for ransom. He had bought his gold jewellery with ill-gotten gains from the gang.

Several hours later, at 7 o'clock that evening, Jahiquel saw the gang member speeding toward him on a motorcycle. Jahiquel was standing outside his grandmother's house, where he had just arrived to spend the night. He had walked over from his mother's house, where he stayed during the day.

Sitting behind the gang member on the motorcycle was the gang member's brother. With horror, Jahiquel saw the brother raise a 9mm handgun and begin firing. He recognized the gun. He had sold it to the brother several months earlier.

In rapid succession, eight bullets pierced Jahiquel's body: two in his legs and five in his chest and stomach. He fell to the ground, terrified. He was too scared to scream or move. Thoughts filled his mind. He remembered, as a boy, being taught by a Seventh-day Adventist aunt to pray and read the Bible. He realized that he had made a mistake by participating in gangs. He prayed, "God, forgive me."

Time seemed to stand still. Then he heard the motorcycle race away. A car passed by but didn't stop. Grandmother came out of the house and bent down over Jahiquel.

A second car came by and stopped. Two people got out, placed Jahiquel inside, and took him to the hospital.

Jahiquel woke up the next day at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. He was hooked up to a machine that helped him breathe. He had 23 stitches down the middle of his stomach. He learned that he had nearly died. Adventists from his aunt's church had been praying for his survival for hours. Now he was alive, and it was a miracle.

From that day, he decided to live for Jesus.

Three years later, Jahiquel is studying to become a barber. He shares his story with other young people, encouraging them to find meaning in life through God and not gangs. He urges them to fill their minds with good things and to stay close to God.

In his own life, he regrets filling his mind with garbage as a teen, and he trusts that God will fill it with good things as he spends time with the Bible. After all, the apostle Paul said, "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." (Romans 12:2, NKJV).

"I want to think about good things, and I don't want to remember the past," Jahiquel said. "Now I read the Bible every morning and every night. I wake up early to pray. It's a process. I know that with God's help, I can go far."

The two brothers who attacked him were never brought to justice because he didn't reveal their identities to the police. He still lives in the same neighbourhood, and he understands that turning them in would endanger him, his mother, and his grandmother.

As for his gold jewellery, he lost it all on the day of the attack. He doesn't know who took it, but he doesn't mind. He has found that real treasure can't be worn. Real treasure is who he has in his heart.

This mission story provides an inside look at life in Costa Rica and missional challenges there. Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help open a center of influence to share the love of Jesus with children who, like Jahiquel, are at risk of being influenced by drugs and gangs in Costa Rica. Thank you for planning a generous

By Andrew McChesney

LESSON 12

“ENTER INTO THY CLOSET”

September 14 — September 20

MEMORY VERSE : ‘But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.’ [2 Peter 3:18]

STUDY HELP : ✓ Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, pages 84-85

SCRIPTURE : Matthew 5:48-6:18

LESSON AIM : To study the inner life of the Christian.

INTRODUCTION : ‘The life on earth is the beginning of the life in heaven; education on earth is an initiation into the principles of heaven; the lifework here is a training for the lifework there. What we now are, in character and holy service is the sure foreshadowing of what we shall be.’ —*The Adventist Home*, page 535.

‘Let no one think he can overcome without the help of God. You must have the energy, the strength, the power, of an inner life developed within you. You will then bear fruit unto godliness, and will have an intense loathing of vice. You need to constantly strive to work away from earthliness, from cheap conversation, from everything sensual, and aim for nobility of soul and a pure and unspotted character. Your name may be kept so pure that it cannot justly be connected with anything dishonest or unrighteous, but will be respected by all the good and pure, and it may be written in the Lamb’s book of life, to be immortalised among the holy angels.’ —*God’s Amazing Grace*, page 111

Sabbath – September 14th

1. To what does Paul compare the Christian’s life?

➤ Colossians 2:7 —

NOTE : ‘The plant grows by receiving that which God has provided to sustain its life. It sends down its roots into the earth. It drinks in the sunshine, the dew, and the rain. It receives the life-giving properties from the air. So the Christian is to grow by co-operating with the divine agencies. Feeling our helplessness, we are to improve all the opportunities granted us to gain a fuller experience. As the plant takes root in the soil, so we are to take deep root in Christ. As the plant receives the sunshine, the dew, and the rain, we are to open our hearts to the Holy Spirit. The work is to be done “not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.” Zechariah 4:6. If we keep our minds stayed upon Christ, He will come unto us “as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth.” Hosea 6:3. As the Sun of Righteousness, He will arise upon us “with healing in His wings.” Malachi 4:2. We shall “grow as the lily.” We shall “revive as the corn, and grow as the vine.” Hosea 14:5, 7. By constantly relying upon Christ as our personal Saviour, we shall grow up into Him in all things who is our head.’ —*Christ’s Object Lessons*, page 66

2. Heaven’s Hotline



E. G. W. Study Help 1*Sabbath, September 14th, 2024***Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing,****Chapter 4, p. 84-85****“The True Motive in Service”**

The Pharisees had stated hours for prayer; and when, as often came to pass, they were abroad at the appointed time, they would pause wherever they might be—perhaps in the street or the market place, amid the hurrying throngs of men—and there in a loud voice rehearse their formal prayers. Such worship, offered merely for self-glorification, called forth unsparing rebuke from Jesus. He did not, however, discountenance public prayer, for He Himself prayed with His disciples and in the presence of the multitude. But He teaches that private prayer is not to be made public. In secret devotion our prayers are to reach the ears of none but the prayer-hearing God. No curious ear is to receive the burden of such petitions. {MB 83.3}

"When thou pray, enter into thy closet." Have a place for secret prayer. Jesus had select places for communion with God, and so should we. We need often to retire to some spot, however humble, where we can be alone with God. {MB 84.1}

"Pray to thy Father which is in secret." In the name of Jesus we may come into God's presence with the confidence of a child. No man is needed to act as a mediator. Through Jesus we may open our hearts to God as to one who knows and loves us. {MB 84.2}

In the secret place of prayer, where no eye but God's can see, no ear but His can hear, we may pour out our most hidden desires and longings to the Father of infinite pity, and in the hush and silence of the soul that voice which never fails to answer the cry of human need will speak to our hearts. {MB 84.3}

"The Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy." James 5:11. He waits with unwearied love to hear the confessions of the wayward and to accept their penitence. He watches for some return of gratitude from us, as the mother watches for the smile of recognition from her beloved child. He would have us understand how earnestly and tenderly His heart yearns over us. He invites us to take our trials to His sympathy, our sorrows to His love, our wounds to His healing, our weakness to His strength, our emptiness to His fullness. Never has one been disappointed who came unto Him. "They looked unto Him, and were lightened: and their faces were not ashamed." Psalm 34:5. {MB 84.4}

Those who seek God in secret telling the Lord their needs and pleading for help, will not plead in vain. "Thy Father which sees in secret Himself shall reward thee openly." As we make Christ our daily companion we shall feel that the powers of an unseen world are all around us; and by looking unto Jesus we shall become assimilated to His image. By beholding we become changed. The character is softened, refined, and ennobled for the heavenly kingdom. The sure result of our intercourse and fellowship with our Lord will be to increase piety, purity, and fervour. There will be a growing intelligence in prayer. We are receiving a divine education, and this is illustrated in a life of diligence and zeal. {MB 85.1}

The soul that turns to God for its help, its support, its power, by daily, earnest prayer, will have noble aspirations, clear perceptions of truth and duty, lofty purposes of action, and a continual hungering and thirsting after righteousness. By maintaining a connection with God, we shall be enabled to diffuse to others, through our association with them, the light, the peace, the serenity, that rule in our hearts. The strength acquired in prayer to God, united with persevering effort in training the mind in thoughtfulness and care-taking, prepares one for daily duties and keeps the spirit in peace under all circumstances. {MB 85.2}

If we draw near to God, He will put a word in our mouth to speak for Him, even praise unto His name. He will teach us a strain from the song of the angels, even thanksgiving to our heavenly Father. In every act of life, the light and love of an indwelling Saviour will be revealed. Outward troubles cannot reach the life that is lived by faith in the Son of God. {MB 85.3}

Last Day Events

Sabbath, September 14th, 2024

Last Day Events, Chapter 8, pp. 268

“The Loud Cry”

--

“The Seal of God and the Mark of the Beast”

September 14th

The Nations in Conflict

For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.

Matthew 24:7

Four mighty angels hold back the powers of this earth till the servants of God are sealed in their foreheads. The nations of the world are eager for conflict, but they are held in check by the angels. When this restraining power is removed there will come a time of trouble and anguish. Deadly instruments of warfare will be invented. Vessels with their living cargo will be entombed in the great deep. All who have not the spirit of truth will unite under the leadership of satanic agencies, but they are to be kept under control till the time shall come for the great battle of Armageddon.—*SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 7, p. 967 (1900).*

Daily Scripture**Sabbath, September 14th, 2024****1st Kings Chapter 22****Ahab and the False Prophets**

- 1Ki 22:1 And they continued three years without war between Syria and Israel.
- 1Ki 22:2 And it came to pass in the third year, that Jehoshaphat the king of Judah came down to the king of Israel.
- 1Ki 22:3 And the king of Israel said unto his servants, Know ye that Ramoth in Gilead *is* ours, and we *be* still, *and* take it not out of the hand of the king of Syria?
- 1Ki 22:4 And he said unto Jehoshaphat, Wilt thou go with me to battle to Ramothgilead? And Jehoshaphat said to the king of Israel, I *am* as thou *art*, my people as thy people, my horses as thy horses.
- 1Ki 22:5 And Jehoshaphat said unto the king of Israel, Enquire, I pray thee, at the word of the LORD to day.
- 1Ki 22:6 Then the king of Israel gathered the prophets together, about four hundred men, and said unto them, Shall I go against Ramothgilead to battle, or shall I forbear? And they said, Go up; for the Lord shall deliver *it* into the hand of the king.
- 1Ki 22:7 And Jehoshaphat said, *Is there* not here a prophet of the LORD besides, that we might enquire of him?
- 1Ki 22:8 And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, *There is* yet one man, Micaiah the son of Imlah, by whom we may enquire of the LORD: but I hate him; for he doth not prophesy good concerning me, but evil. And Jehoshaphat said, Let not the king say so.
- 1Ki 22:9 Then the king of Israel called an officer, and said, Hasten *hither* Micaiah the son of Imlah.
- 1Ki 22:10 And the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat the king of Judah sat each on his throne, having put on their robes, in a void place in the entrance of the gate of Samaria; and all the prophets prophesied before them.
- 1Ki 22:11 And Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah made him horns of iron: and he said, Thus saith the LORD, With these shalt thou push the Syrians, until thou have consumed them.
- 1Ki 22:12 And all the prophets prophesied so, saying, Go up to Ramothgilead, and prosper: for the LORD shall deliver *it* into the king's hand.

Micaiah Prophecies Against Ahab

- 1Ki 22:13 And the messenger that was gone to call Micaiah spake unto him, saying, Behold now, the words of the prophets *declare* good unto the king with one mouth: let thy word, I pray thee, be like the word of one of them, and speak *that which is* good.
- 1Ki 22:14 And Micaiah said, *As* the LORD lives, what the LORD saith unto me, that will I speak.
- 1Ki 22:15 So he came to the king. And the king said unto him, Micaiah, shall we go against Ramothgilead to battle, or shall we forbear? And he answered him, Go, and prosper: for the LORD shall deliver *it* into the hand of the king.
- 1Ki 22:16 And the king said unto him, How many times shall I adjure thee that thou tell me nothing but *that which is* true in the name of the LORD?
- 1Ki 22:17 And he said, I saw all Israel scattered upon the hills, as sheep that have not a shepherd: and the LORD said, These have no master: let them return every man to his house in peace.
- 1Ki 22:18 And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, Did I not tell thee that he would prophesy no good concerning me, but evil?
- 1Ki 22:19 And he said, Hear thou therefore the word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on his throne, and all the host of heaven standing by him on his right hand and on his left.
- 1Ki 22:20 And the LORD said, Who shall persuade Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramothgilead? And one said on this manner, and another said on that manner.
- 1Ki 22:21 And there came forth a spirit, and stood before the LORD, and said, I will persuade him.

- 1Ki 22:22 And the LORD said unto him, Wherewith? And he said, I will go forth, and I will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets. And he said, Thou shalt persuade *him*, and prevail also: go forth, and do so.
- 1Ki 22:23 Now therefore, behold, the LORD hath put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these thy prophets, and the LORD hath spoken evil concerning thee.
- 1Ki 22:24 But Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah went near, and smote Micaiah on the cheek, and said, Which way went the Spirit of the LORD from me to speak unto thee?
- 1Ki 22:25 And Micaiah said, Behold, thou shalt see in that day, when thou shalt go into an inner chamber to hide thyself.
- 1Ki 22:26 And the king of Israel said, Take Micaiah, and carry him back unto Amon the governor of the city, and to Joash the king's son;
- 1Ki 22:27 And say, Thus saith the king, Put this *fellow* in the prison, and feed him with bread of affliction and with water of affliction, until I come in peace.
- 1Ki 22:28 And Micaiah said, If thou return at all in peace, the LORD hath not spoken by me. And he said, Hearken, O people, every one of you.

Ahab Killed in Battle

- 1Ki 22:29 So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat the king of Judah went up to Ramothgilead.
- 1Ki 22:30 And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, I will disguise myself, and enter into the battle; but put thou on thy robes. And the king of Israel disguised himself, and went into the battle.
- 1Ki 22:31 But the king of Syria commanded his thirty and two captains that had rule over his chariots, saying, Fight neither with small nor great, save only with the king of Israel.
- 1Ki 22:32 And it came to pass, when the captains of the chariots saw Jehoshaphat, that they said, Surely it *is* the king of Israel. And they turned aside to fight against him: and Jehoshaphat cried out.
- 1Ki 22:33 And it came to pass, when the captains of the chariots perceived that it *was* not the king of Israel, that they turned back from pursuing him.
- 1Ki 22:34 And a *certain* man drew a bow at a venture, and smote the king of Israel between the joints of the harness: wherefore he said unto the driver of his chariot, Turn thine hand, and carry me out of the host; for I am wounded.
- 1Ki 22:35 And the battle increased that day: and the king was stayed up in his chariot against the Syrians, and died at even: and the blood ran out of the wound into the midst of the chariot.
- 1Ki 22:36 And there went a proclamation throughout the host about the going down of the sun, saying, Every man to his city, and every man to his own country.
- 1Ki 22:37 So the king died, and was brought to Samaria; and they buried the king in Samaria.
- 1Ki 22:38 And *one* washed the chariot in the pool of Samaria; and the dogs licked up his blood; and they washed his armour; according unto the word of the LORD which he spake.
- 1Ki 22:39 Now the rest of the acts of Ahab, and all that he did, and the ivory house which he made, and all the cities that he built, *are* they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?
- 1Ki 22:40 So Ahab slept with his fathers; and Ahaziah his son reigned in his stead.

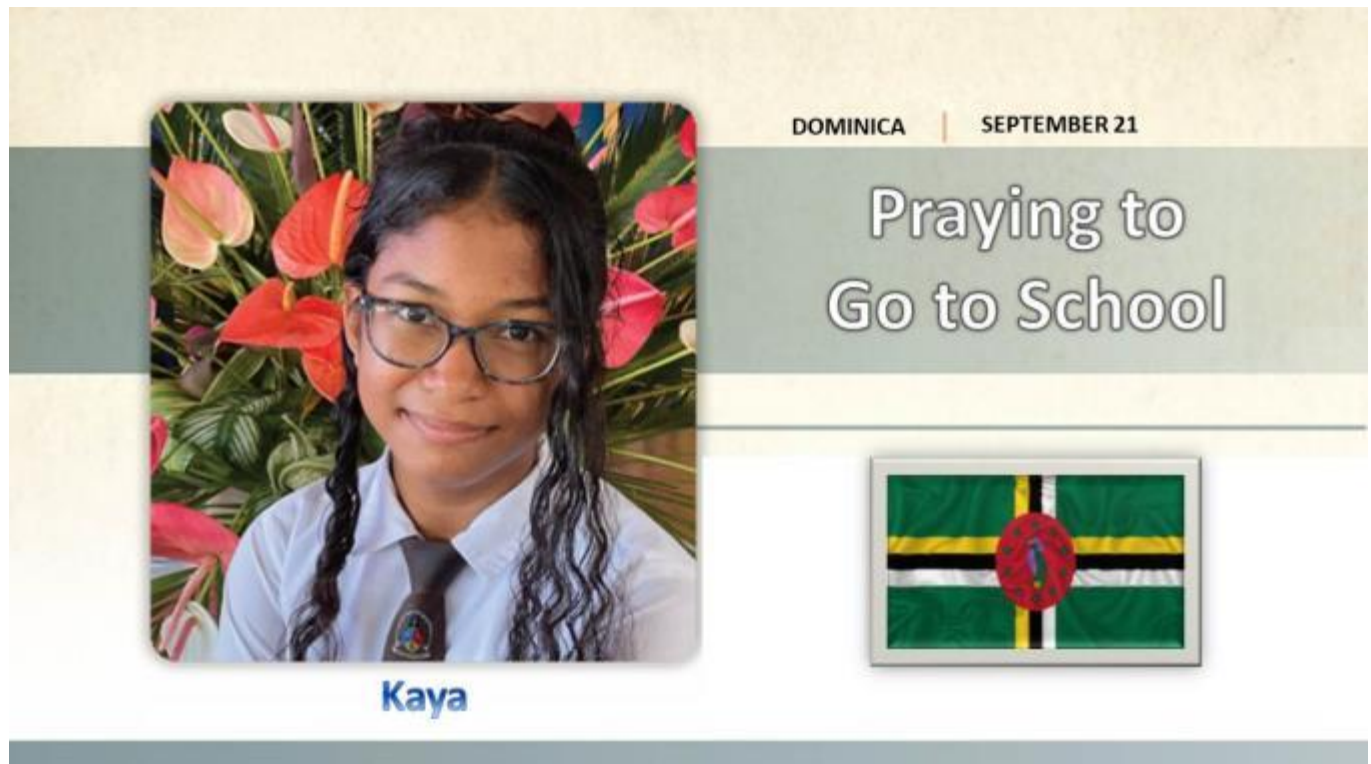
Jehoshaphat Reigns in Judah

- 1Ki 22:41 And Jehoshaphat the son of Asa began to reign over Judah in the fourth year of Ahab king of Israel.
- 1Ki 22:42 Jehoshaphat *was* thirty and five years old when he began to reign; and he reigned twenty and five years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name *was* Azubah the daughter of Shilhi.
- 1Ki 22:43 And he walked in all the ways of Asa his father; he turned not aside from it, doing *that which was* right in the eyes of the LORD: nevertheless the high places were not taken away; *for* the people offered and burnt incense yet in the high places.
- 1Ki 22:44 And Jehoshaphat made peace with the king of Israel.
- 1Ki 22:45 Now the rest of the acts of Jehoshaphat, and his might that he shewed, and how he warred, *are* they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?
- 1Ki 22:46 And the remnant of the sodomites, which remained in the days of his father Asa, he took out of the land.

- 1Ki 22:47 *There was* then no king in Edom: a deputy *was* king.
- 1Ki 22:48 Jehoshaphat made ships of Tharshish to go to Ophir for gold: but they went not; for the ships were broken at Eziongeber.
- 1Ki 22:49 Then said Ahaziah the son of Ahab unto Jehoshaphat, Let my servants go with thy servants in the ships. But Jehoshaphat would not.
- 1Ki 22:50 And Jehoshaphat slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David his father: and Jehoram his son reigned in his stead.

Ahaziah Reigns in Israel

- 1Ki 22:51 Ahaziah the son of Ahab began to reign over Israel in Samaria the seventeenth year of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, and reigned two years over Israel.
- 1Ki 22:52 And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the way of his father, and in the way of his mother, and in the way of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin:
- 1Ki 22:53 For he served Baal, and worshipped him, and provoked to anger the LORD God of Israel, according to all that his father had done.

*Children's Mission Story**Sabbath, September 14th, 2024*

Do you like going to school? Keya [KEY-ya] loved her school so much on the island of Dominica that she prayed and prayed to go to school after a terrible hurricane.

Keya didn't always go to Ebenezer Seventh-day Adventist Primary School. For first grade, she was home-schooled by Mother. So, she was overjoyed when she heard that she would enter second grade in a real school.

"I'm going to a real school!" she exclaimed with joy.

Keya woke up very early on the first day of classes. She could barely contain her excitement, and she was grinning from ear to ear.

Nothing changed after that. Every day, she woke up, excited to go to school.

When summer came, she couldn't wait to return to school to start third grade in the fall. When she finished third grade, she couldn't wait to start fourth grade. She loved her school!

But something bad happened just a few days before school opened for fourth grade. A huge hurricane roared over the tiny island. The fierce winds destroyed streets. The fierce winds damaged bridges. The fierce winds ruined buildings. The fierce winds ripped the roof right off Keya's school. Without a roof, water flooded the school, and desks and chairs were ruined. The school wasn't safe for children, and it couldn't open for classes. Making matters worse, no one knew when the school would be repaired.

Keya was very sad. She prayed, "Heavenly Father, You know all our problems, and we need a new school. Please allow us to get a new school."

She prayed every night. Her classmates also prayed. The school's teachers prayed.

Six weeks passed. Keya grew tired of sitting at home. She couldn't go out because it wasn't safe. Workers were trying to repair the streets, bridges, and buildings ruined by the hurricane. It seemed like everyone on the island was stuck at home.

Keya kept praying, "Heavenly Father, You know all our problems, and we need a new school. Please allow us to get a new school."

Then, one afternoon, Father told Keya, "You can go to school."

The public school had agreed to allow the children from the Adventist school to meet in its classrooms in the afternoons.

Keya was so happy! She would finally be able to leave the house. She would finally be able to see her friends again. She didn't wait to go to bed to sleep to thank God.

"Thank You, God! Thank You, God!" she prayed.

On the first day at the borrowed school, Keya's friends ran over to hug her. It was so nice!

The children studied at the public school for six months. Then the roof was finally repaired at the Adventist school, and they could move back. Keya was so happy!

Today, Keya has a new prayer. Like her, many children want to study at the Adventist school, but there isn't enough room for them all. She is praying for God to help the school move to a bigger building.

She is praying, "Dear Heavenly Father, I pray that You will give us funds for a new school building. I thank You for everything that You give to us. In Jesus' name, Amen."

Keya knows that God hears her prayers, just like He did after the terrible hurricane. Her father, who is an architect, has designed a bigger school building, and part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help cover the cost of constructing it in Dominica's capital, Roseau. Thank you for planning a generous offering next week.

By Andrew McChesney

Sunday – September 15th

1. What are our roots to be grounded in?

➤ **Ephesians 3:17** —

NOTE : ‘The storm is coming, the storm that will try every man’s faith of what sort it is. Believers must now be firmly rooted in Christ or else they will be led astray by some phase of error. It would be well for us to spend a thoughtful hour each day in contemplation of the life of Christ. We should take it point by point and let the imagination grasp each scene, especially the closing ones. The only defence against evil is the indwelling of Christ in the heart through faith in His righteousness. Unless we become vitally connected with God, we can never resist the unhallowed effects of self-love, self-indulgence, and temptation to sin. We may leave off many bad habits, for the time we may part company with Satan; but without a vital connection with God, through the surrender of ourselves to Him moment by moment, we shall be overcome. Without a personal acquaintance with Christ, and a continual communion, we are at the mercy of the enemy, and shall do his bidding in the end.’ —*Last Day Events*, page 64.

2. How did Jesus emphasise the importance of private prayer?

➤ **Matthew 6:6** —

NOTE : ‘The life of the soul depends upon habitual communion with God. Its wants are made known, and the heart is open to receive fresh blessings. Gratitude flows from unfeigned lips; and the refreshing that is received from Jesus is manifested in words, in deeds of active benevolence, and in public devotion. There is love to Jesus in the heart; and where love exists, it will not be repressed, but will express itself. Secret prayer sustains the inner life. The heart that loves God will desire to commune with Him, and will lean on Him in holy confidence.’ —*Gospel Workers*, 1892 ed., page 426.

‘We should be much in secret prayer. Christ is the vine, ye are the branches. And if we would grow and flourish, we must continually draw sap and nourishment from the Living Vine; for separated from the Vine we have no strength.’ —*Early Writings*, page 73.

3. Heaven’s Hotline

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Last Day Events***Sunday, September 15th, 2024******Last Day Events, Chapter 9, pp. 269*****“The Close of Probation”****--****“The Seven Last Plagues and the Wicked”****September 15th****The Whole World Will Be Involved in Ruin****For what is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away?****Luke 9:25**

Angels are now restraining the winds of strife that they may not blow until the world shall be warned of its coming doom, but a storm is gathering, ready to burst upon the earth, and when God shall bid His angels loose the winds there will be such a scene of strife as no pen can picture.—*Education*, p. 179, 180 (1903).

The Saviour's prophecy concerning the visitation of judgments upon Jerusalem is to have another fulfillment, of which that terrible desolation was but a faint shadow. In the fate of the chosen city we may behold the doom of a world that has rejected God's mercy and trampled upon His law.—*The Great Controversy*, p. 36 (1911).

Satan will then plunge the inhabitants of the earth into one great, final trouble. As the angels of God cease to hold in check the fierce winds of human passion, all the elements of strife will be let loose. The whole world will be involved in ruin more terrible than that which came upon Jerusalem of old. —*The Great Controversy*, p. 614 (1911).

*Daily Scripture**Sunday, September 15th, 2024***2nd Kings Chapter 1****Elijah Denounces Ahaziah**

- 2Ki 1:1 Then Moab rebelled against Israel after the death of Ahab.
- 2Ki 1:2 And Ahaziah fell down through a lattice in his upper chamber that *was* in Samaria, and was sick: and he sent messengers, and said unto them, Go, enquire of Baalzebub the god of Ekron whether I shall recover of this disease.
- 2Ki 1:3 But the angel of the LORD said to Elijah the Tishbite, Arise, go up to meet the messengers of the king of Samaria, and say unto them, *Is it* not because *there is* not a God in Israel, *that* ye go to enquire of Baalzebub the god of Ekron?
- 2Ki 1:4 Now therefore thus saith the LORD, Thou shalt not come down from that bed on which thou art gone up, but shalt surely die. And Elijah departed.
- 2Ki 1:5 And when the messengers turned back unto him, he said unto them, Why are ye now turned back?
- 2Ki 1:6 And they said unto him, There came a man up to meet us, and said unto us, Go, turn again unto the king that sent you, and say unto him, Thus saith the LORD, *Is it* not because *there is* not a God in Israel, *that* thou send to enquire of Baalzebub the god of Ekron? therefore thou shalt not come down from that bed on which thou art gone up, but shalt surely die.
- 2Ki 1:7 And he said unto them, What manner of man *was he* which came up to meet you, and told you these words?
- 2Ki 1:8 And they answered him, *He was* an hairy man, and girt with a girdle of leather about his loins. And he said, It *is* Elijah the Tishbite.
- 2Ki 1:9 Then the king sent unto him a captain of fifty with his fifty. And he went up to him: and, behold, he sat on the top of an hill. And he spake unto him, Thou man of God, the king hath said, Come down.
- 2Ki 1:10 And Elijah answered and said to the captain of fifty, If I *be* a man of God, then let fire come down from heaven, and consume thee and thy fifty. And there came down fire from heaven, and consumed him and his fifty.
- 2Ki 1:11 Again also he sent unto him another captain of fifty with his fifty. And he answered and said unto him, O man of God, thus hath the king said, Come down quickly.
- 2Ki 1:12 And Elijah answered and said unto them, If I *be* a man of God, let fire come down from heaven, and consume thee and thy fifty. And the fire of God came down from heaven, and consumed him and his fifty.
- 2Ki 1:13 And he sent again a captain of the third fifty with his fifty. And the third captain of fifty went up, and came and fell on his knees before Elijah, and besought him, and said unto him, O man of God, I pray thee, let my life, and the life of these fifty thy servants, be precious in thy sight.
- 2Ki 1:14 Behold, there came fire down from heaven, and burnt up the two captains of the former fifties with their fifties: therefore let my life now be precious in thy sight.
- 2Ki 1:15 And the angel of the LORD said unto Elijah, Go down with him: be not afraid of him. And he arose, and went down with him unto the king.
- 2Ki 1:16 And he said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Forasmuch as thou hast sent messengers to enquire of Baalzebub the god of Ekron, *is it* not because *there is* no God in Israel to enquire of his word? therefore thou shalt not come down off that bed on which thou art gone up, but shalt surely die.
- 2Ki 1:17 So he died according to the word of the LORD which Elijah had spoken. And Jehoram reigned in his stead in the second year of Jehoram the son of Jehoshaphat king of Judah; because he had no son.
- 2Ki 1:18 Now the rest of the acts of Ahaziah which he did, *are* they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?

Monday – September 16th

1. What is essential if the Christian is to be cleansed from unrighteousness?

➤ **1 John 1:8-2:2** —

NOTE : ‘The nearer we come to Jesus, and the more clearly we discern the purity of His character, the more clearly shall we see the exceeding sinfulness of sin, and the less shall we feel like exalting ourselves. There will be a continual reaching out of the soul after God, a continual, earnest, heartbreaking confession of sin and humbling of the heart before Him. At every advance step in our Christian experience our repentance will deepen. We shall know that our sufficiency is in Christ alone and shall make the apostle’s confession our own: “I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwells no good thing.” “God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.” Romans 7:18; Galatians 6:14.’ —*Acts of the Apostles, page 561.*

2. What difference are we shown between those who confess their sins and those who do not?

➤ **Proverbs 28:13** —

NOTE : ‘The Pharisee and the publican represent two great classes into which those who come to worship God are divided. Their first two representatives are found in the first two children that were born into the world. Cain thought himself righteous, and he came to God with a thank offering only. He made no confession of sin, and acknowledged no need of mercy. But Abel came with the blood that pointed to the Lamb of God. He came as a sinner, confessing himself lost; his only hope was the unmerited love of God. The Lord had respect to his offering, but to Cain and his offering He had not respect. The sense of need, the recognition of our poverty and sin, is the very first condition of acceptance with God. “Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 5:3.’ —*Christ’s Object Lessons, page 152.*

3. Heaven’s Hotline

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Last Day Events***Monday, September 16th, 2024******Last Day Events, Chapter 9, pp. 270*****“The Close of Probation”****--****“The Seven Last Plagues and the Wicked”****September 16th****God Is Just, as Well as Merciful**

(For the LORD thy God is a merciful God;) he will not forsake thee, neither destroy thee, nor forget the covenant of thy fathers which he swore unto them.

Deuteronomy 4:31

It is the glory of God to be merciful, full of forbearance, kindness, goodness, and truth. But the justice shown in punishing the sinner is as verily the glory of the Lord as is the manifestation of His mercy.—*Review and Herald, March 10, 1904.*

The Lord God of Israel is to execute judgment upon the gods of this world as upon the gods of Egypt. With fire and flood, plagues and earthquakes, He will spoil the whole land. Then His redeemed people will exalt His name and make it glorious in the earth. Shall not those who are living in the last remnant of this earth's history become intelligent in regard to God's lessons?—*Manuscripts Releases, Vol. 10, p. 240, 241 (1899).*

The One who has stood as our Intercessor; who hears all penitential prayers and confessions; who is represented with a rainbow, the symbol of grace and love, encircling His head, is soon to cease His work in the heavenly sanctuary. Grace and mercy will then descend from the throne, and justice will take their place. He for whom His people have looked will assume His right--the office of Supreme Judge. —*Review and Herald, January 1, 1889.*

In all the Bible, God is presented not only as a Being of mercy and benevolence, but as a God of strict and impartial justice.—*Signs of the Times, March 24, 1881.*

Daily Scripture**Monday, September 16th, 2024****2nd Kings Chapter 2****Elijah Taken to Heaven**

- 2Ki 2:1 And it came to pass, when the LORD would take up Elijah into heaven by a whirlwind, that Elijah went with Elisha from Gilgal.
- 2Ki 2:2 And Elijah said unto Elisha, Tarry here, I pray thee; for the LORD hath sent me to Bethel. And Elisha said *unto him*, As the LORD lives, and *as* thy soul lives, I will not leave thee. So they went down to Bethel.
- 2Ki 2:3 And the sons of the prophets that *were* at Bethel came forth to Elisha, and said unto him, Know thou that the LORD will take away thy master from thy head to day? And he said, Yea, I know *it*; hold ye your peace.
- 2Ki 2:4 And Elijah said unto him, Elisha, tarry here, I pray thee; for the LORD hath sent me to Jericho. And he said, As the LORD lives, and *as* thy soul lives, I will not leave thee. So they came to Jericho.
- 2Ki 2:5 And the sons of the prophets that *were* at Jericho came to Elisha, and said unto him, Know thou that the LORD will take away thy master from thy head to day? And he answered, Yea, I know *it*; hold ye your peace.
- 2Ki 2:6 And Elijah said unto him, Tarry, I pray thee, here; for the LORD hath sent me to Jordan. And he said, As the LORD lives, and *as* thy soul lives, I will not leave thee. And they two went on.
- 2Ki 2:7 And fifty men of the sons of the prophets went, and stood to view afar off: and they two stood by Jordan.
- 2Ki 2:8 And Elijah took his mantle, and wrapped *it* together, and smote the waters, and they were divided hither and thither, so that they two went over on dry ground.
- 2Ki 2:9 And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee. And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me.
- 2Ki 2:10 And he said, Thou hast asked a hard thing: *nevertheless*, if thou see me *when I am* taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee; but if not, it shall not be *so*.
- 2Ki 2:11 And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, *there appeared* a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.
- 2Ki 2:12 And Elisha saw *it*, and he cried, My father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof. And he saw him no more: and he took hold of his own clothes, and rent them in two pieces.
- 2Ki 2:13 He took up also the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and went back, and stood by the bank of Jordan;
- 2Ki 2:14 And he took the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and smote the waters, and said, Where *is* the LORD God of Elijah? and when he also had smitten the waters, they parted hither and thither: and Elisha went over.

Elisha Succeeds Elijah

- 2Ki 2:15 And when the sons of the prophets which *were* to view at Jericho saw him, they said, The spirit of Elijah doth rest on Elisha. And they came to meet him, and bowed themselves to the ground before him.
- 2Ki 2:16 And they said unto him, Behold now, there be with thy servants fifty strong men; let them go, we pray thee, and seek thy master: lest peradventure the Spirit of the LORD hath taken him up, and cast him upon some mountain, or into some valley. And he said, Ye shall not send.
- 2Ki 2:17 And when they urged him till he was ashamed, he said, Send. They sent therefore fifty men; and they sought three days, but found him not.
- 2Ki 2:18 And when they came again to him, (for he tarried at Jericho,) he said unto them, Did I not say unto you, Go not?

- 2Ki 2:19 And the men of the city said unto Elisha, Behold, I pray thee, the situation of this city *is* pleasant, as my lord sees: but the water *is* naught, and the ground barren.
- 2Ki 2:20 And he said, Bring me a new cruse, and put salt therein. And they brought *it* to him.
- 2Ki 2:21 And he went forth unto the spring of the waters, and cast the salt in there, and said, Thus saith the LORD, I have healed these waters; there shall not be from thence any more death or barren *land*.
- 2Ki 2:22 So the waters were healed unto this day, according to the saying of Elisha which he spake.
- 2Ki 2:23 And he went up from thence unto Bethel: and as he was going up by the way, there came forth little children out of the city, and mocked him, and said unto him, Go up, thou bald head; go up, thou bald head.
- 2Ki 2:24 And he turned back, and looked on them, and cursed them in the name of the LORD. And there came forth two she bears out of the wood, and tare forty and two children of them.
- 2Ki 2:25 And he went from thence to mount Carmel, and from thence he returned to Samaria.

Tuesday – September 17th

1. What are we shown of David's secret prayer life?

➤ Psalm 3 —

NOTE : 'When temptations and trials rush in upon us, let us go to God and agonise with Him in prayer. He will not turn us away empty, but will give us grace and strength to overcome, and to break the power of the enemy.' —*Early Writings, page 46.*

2. What assurance did the Psalmist gain from his experience with the Lord?

➤ Psalm 46:1-2 —

NOTE : 'The life of the soul depends upon habitual communion with God. Its wants are made known, and the heart is open to receive fresh blessings. Gratitude flows from unfeigned lips; and the refreshing that is received from Jesus is manifested in words, in deeds of active benevolence, and in public devotion. There is love to Jesus in the heart; and where love exists, it will not be repressed, but will express itself. Secret prayer sustains this inner life. The heart that loves God will desire to commune with Him, and will lean on Him in holy confidence.' —*Our High Calling, page 130.*

4. Heaven's Hotline

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Last Day Events***Tuesday, September 17th, 2024******Last Day Events, Chapter 9, pp. 271*****"The Close of Probation"**

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"The Seven Last Plagues and the Wicked"**September 17th****The Certainty of God's Judgments**

And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints.

Revelation 15:3

God's love is represented in our day as being of such a character as would forbid His destroying the sinner. Men reason from their own low standard of right and justice. "*Thou thought that I was altogether such an one as thyself.*" [Psalm 50:21] They measure God by themselves. They reason as to how they would act under the circumstances and decide God would do as they imagine they would do. . . .

In no kingdom or government is it left to the lawbreakers to say what punishment is to be executed against those who have broken the law. All we have, all the bounties of His grace which we possess, we owe to God. The aggravating character of sin against such a God cannot be estimated any more than the heavens can be measured with a span. God is a moral governor as well as a Father. He is the Lawgiver. He makes and executes His laws. Law that has no penalty is of no force.

The plea may be made that a loving Father would not see His children suffering the punishment of God by fire while He had the power to relieve them. But God would, for the good of His subjects and for their safety, punish the transgressor. God does not work on the plan of man. He can do infinite justice that man has no right to do before his fellow man. Noah would have displeased God to have drowned one of the scoffers and mockers that harassed him, but God drowned the vast world. Lot would have had no right to inflict punishment on his sons-in-law, but God would do it in strict justice.

Who will say God will not do what He says He will do? —*Manuscripts Releases, Vol. 12, p. 207-209; Manuscripts Releases, Vol. 10, p. 265 (1876).*

Daily Scripture**Tuesday, September 17th, 2024****2nd Kings Chapter 3****Moab Rebels Against Israel**

- 2Ki 3:1 Now Jehoram the son of Ahab began to reign over Israel in Samaria the eighteenth year of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, and reigned twelve years.
- 2Ki 3:2 And he wrought evil in the sight of the LORD; but not like his father, and like his mother: for he put away the image of Baal that his father had made.
- 2Ki 3:3 Nevertheless he cleaved unto the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which made Israel to sin; he departed not therefrom.
- 2Ki 3:4 And Mesha king of Moab was a sheepmaster, and rendered unto the king of Israel an hundred thousand lambs, and an hundred thousand rams, with the wool.
- 2Ki 3:5 But it came to pass, when Ahab was dead, that the king of Moab rebelled against the king of Israel.
- 2Ki 3:6 And king Jehoram went out of Samaria the same time, and numbered all Israel.
- 2Ki 3:7 And he went and sent to Jehoshaphat the king of Judah, saying, The king of Moab hath rebelled against me: wilt thou go with me against Moab to battle? And he said, I will go up: *I am* as thou *art*, my people as thy people, *and* my horses as thy horses.
- 2Ki 3:8 And he said, Which way shall we go up? And he answered, The way through the wilderness of Edom.
- 2Ki 3:9 So the king of Israel went, and the king of Judah, and the king of Edom: and they fetched a compass of seven days' journey: and there was no water for the host, and for the cattle that followed them.
- 2Ki 3:10 And the king of Israel said, Alas! that the LORD hath called these three kings together, to deliver them into the hand of Moab!
- 2Ki 3:11 But Jehoshaphat said, *Is there* not here a prophet of the LORD, that we may enquire of the LORD by him? And one of the king of Israel's servants answered and said, Here *is* Elisha the son of Shaphat, which poured water on the hands of Elijah.
- 2Ki 3:12 And Jehoshaphat said, The word of the LORD is with him. So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat and the king of Edom went down to him.
- 2Ki 3:13 And Elisha said unto the king of Israel, What have I to do with thee? get thee to the prophets of thy father, and to the prophets of thy mother. And the king of Israel said unto him, Nay: for the LORD hath called these three kings together, to deliver them into the hand of Moab.
- 2Ki 3:14 And Elisha said, *As* the LORD of hosts lives, before whom I stand, surely, were it not that I regard the presence of Jehoshaphat the king of Judah, I would not look toward thee, nor see thee.
- 2Ki 3:15 But now bring me a minstrel. And it came to pass, when the minstrel played, that the hand of the LORD came upon him.
- 2Ki 3:16 And he said, Thus saith the LORD, Make this valley full of ditches.
- 2Ki 3:17 For thus saith the LORD, Ye shall not see wind, neither shall ye see rain; yet that valley shall be filled with water, that ye may drink, both ye, and your cattle, and your beasts.
- 2Ki 3:18 And this is *but* a light thing in the sight of the LORD: he will deliver the Moabites also into your hand.
- 2Ki 3:19 And ye shall smite every fenced city, and every choice city, and shall fell every good tree, and stop all wells of water, and mar every good piece of land with stones.
- 2Ki 3:20 And it came to pass in the morning, when the meat offering was offered, that, behold, there came water by the way of Edom, and the country was filled with water.
- 2Ki 3:21 And when all the Moabites heard that the kings were come up to fight against them, they gathered all that were able to put on armour, and upward, and stood in the border.
- 2Ki 3:22 And they rose up early in the morning, and the sun shone upon the water, and the Moabites saw the water on the other side *as* red as blood:

- 2Ki 3:23 And they said, This *is* blood: the kings are surely slain, and they have smitten one another: now therefore, Moab, to the spoil.
- 2Ki 3:24 And when they came to the camp of Israel, the Israelites rose up and smote the Moabites, so that they fled before them: but they went forward smiting the Moabites, even in *their* country.
- 2Ki 3:25 And they beat down the cities, and on every good piece of land cast every man his stone, and filled it; and they stopped all the wells of water, and felled all the good trees: only in Kirharaseth left they the stones thereof; howbeit the slingers went about *it*, and smote it.
- 2Ki 3:26 And when the king of Moab saw that the battle was too sore for him, he took with him seven hundred men that drew swords, to break through *even* unto the king of Edom: but they could not.
- 2Ki 3:27 Then he took his eldest son that should have reigned in his stead, and offered him *for* a burnt offering upon the wall. And there was great indignation against Israel: and they departed from him, and returned to *their own* land.

Wednesday – September 18th

1. How does Paul explain the vital importance of knowing the Scriptures?

➤ 2 Timothy 3:15 —

NOTE : ‘We should exert all the powers of the mind in the study of the Scriptures, and should task the understanding to comprehend, as far as mortals can, the deep things of God; yet we must not forget that the docility and submission of a child is the true spirit of the learner. Scriptural difficulties can never be mastered by the same methods that are employed in grappling with philosophical problems. We should not engage in the study of the Bible with that self-reliance with which so many enter the domains of science, but with a prayerful dependence upon God, and a sincere desire to learn His will. We must come with a humble and teachable spirit to obtain knowledge from the great I am. Otherwise, evil angels will so blind our minds and harden our hearts that we shall not be impressed by the truth.’ —*Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, page 37.

2. How did Jeremiah express the importance of God’s Word to him?

➤ Jeremiah 15:16 —

➤ Matthew 4:4 —

NOTE : ‘It is impossible for any human mind to exhaust one truth or promise of the Bible. One catches the glory from one point of view, another from another point; yet we can discern only gleamings. The full radiance is beyond our vision. As we contemplate the great things of God’s Word, we look into a fountain that broadens and deepens beneath our gaze. Its breadth and depth pass our knowledge. As we gaze, the vision widens; stretched out before us, we behold a boundless, shoreless sea. Such study has vivifying power. The mind and heart acquire new strength, new life.’ —*My Life Today*, page 26.

‘The Bible should never be studied without prayer. The Holy Spirit alone can cause us to feel the importance of those things easy to be understood, or prevent us from wresting truths difficult of comprehension. It is the office of heavenly angels to prepare the heart so to comprehend God’s word that we shall be charmed with its beauty, admonished by its warnings, or animated and strengthened by its promises. We should make the psalmist’s petition our own, “Open Thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of Thy law.” Temptations often appear irresistible because, through neglect of prayer and the study of the Bible, the tempted one cannot readily remember God’s promises and meet Satan with the Scripture weapons. But angels are round about those who are willing to be taught in divine things; and in the time of great necessity, they will bring to their remembrance the very truths which are needed.’ —*Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, page 38.

3. Heaven’s Hotline

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Last Day Events

Wednesday, September 18th, 2024

Last Day Events, Chapter 9, pp. 272

“The Close of Probation”

--

“The Seven Last Plagues and the Wicked”

September 18th

Judgments Come When God Removes His Protection

And I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments.

Revelation 16:7

I was shown that the judgments of God would not come directly out from the Lord upon them, but in this way: They place themselves beyond His protection. He warns, corrects, reproves, and points out the only path of safety; then, if those who have been the objects of His special care will follow their own course, independent of the Spirit of God, after repeated warnings, if they choose their own way, then He does not commission His angels to prevent Satan's decided attacks upon them.

It is Satan's power that is at work at sea and on land, bringing calamity and distress and sweeping off multitudes to make sure of his prey.—*Manuscripts Releases, Vol. 14, p. 3 (1883).*

God will use His enemies as instruments to punish those who have followed their own pernicious ways whereby the truth of God has been misrepresented, misjudged, and dishonoured.—*The Paulson Collection, p. 136 (1894).*

Already the Spirit of God, insulted, refused, abused, is being withdrawn from the earth. Just as fast as God's Spirit is taken away, Satan's cruel work will be done upon land and sea.—*Manuscript 134, 1898.*

The wicked have passed the boundary of their probation; the Spirit of God, persistently resisted, has been at last withdrawn. Unsheltered by divine grace, they have no protection from the wicked one.—*The Great Controversy, p. 614 (1911).*

Daily Scripture**Wednesday, September 18th, 2024****2nd Kings Chapter 4****Elisha and the Widow's Oil**

- 2Ki 4:1 Now there cried a certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets unto Elisha, saying, Thy servant my husband is dead; and thou know that thy servant did fear the LORD: and the creditor is come to take unto him my two sons to be bondmen.
- 2Ki 4:2 And Elisha said unto her, What shall I do for thee? tell me, what hast thou in the house? And she said, Thine handmaid hath not anything in the house, save a pot of oil.
- 2Ki 4:3 Then he said, Go, borrow thee vessels abroad of all thy neighbours, *even* empty vessels; borrow not a few.
- 2Ki 4:4 And when thou art come in, thou shalt shut the door upon thee and upon thy sons, and shalt pour out into all those vessels, and thou shalt set aside that which is full.
- 2Ki 4:5 So she went from him, and shut the door upon her and upon her sons, who brought *the vessels* to her; and she poured out.
- 2Ki 4:6 And it came to pass, when the vessels were full, that she said unto her son, Bring me yet a vessel. And he said unto her, *There is* not a vessel more. And the oil stayed.
- 2Ki 4:7 Then she came and told the man of God. And he said, Go, sell the oil, and pay thy debt, and live thou and thy children of the rest.

Elisha and the Shunammite Woman

- 2Ki 4:8 And it fell on a day, that Elisha passed to Shunem, where *was* a great woman; and she constrained him to eat bread. And *so* it was, *that* as oft as he passed by, he turned in thither to eat bread.
- 2Ki 4:9 And she said unto her husband, Behold now, I perceive that this *is* an holy man of God, which passeth by us continually.
- 2Ki 4:10 Let us make a little chamber, I pray thee, on the wall; and let us set for him there a bed, and a table, and a stool, and a candlestick: and it shall be, when he cometh to us, that he shall turn in thither.
- 2Ki 4:11 And it fell on a day, that he came thither, and he turned into the chamber, and lay there.
- 2Ki 4:12 And he said to Gehazi his servant, Call this Shunammite. And when he had called her, she stood before him.
- 2Ki 4:13 And he said unto him, Say now unto her, Behold, thou hast been careful for us with all this care; what *is* to be done for thee? would thou be spoken for to the king, or to the captain of the host? And she answered, I dwell among mine own people.
- 2Ki 4:14 And he said, What then *is* to be done for her? And Gehazi answered, Verily she hath no child, and her husband is old.
- 2Ki 4:15 And he said, Call her. And when he had called her, she stood in the door.
- 2Ki 4:16 And he said, About this season, according to the time of life, thou shalt embrace a son. And she said, Nay, my lord, *thou* man of God, do not lie unto thine handmaid.
- 2Ki 4:17 And the woman conceived, and bare a son at that season that Elisha had said unto her, according to the time of life.

Elisha Raises the Shunammite's Son

- 2Ki 4:18 And when the child was grown, it fell on a day, that he went out to his father to the reapers.
- 2Ki 4:19 And he said unto his father, My head, my head. And he said to a lad, Carry him to his mother.
- 2Ki 4:20 And when he had taken him, and brought him to his mother, he sat on her knees till noon, and *then* died.
- 2Ki 4:21 And she went up, and laid him on the bed of the man of God, and shut *the door* upon him, and went out.

- 2Ki 4:22 And she called unto her husband, and said, Send me, I pray thee, one of the young men, and one of the asses, that I may run to the man of God, and come again.
- 2Ki 4:23 And he said, Wherefore wilt thou go to him today? *it is* neither new moon, nor sabbath. And she said, *It shall be* well.
- 2Ki 4:24 Then she saddled an ass, and said to her servant, Drive, and go forward; slack not *thy* riding for me, except I bid thee.
- 2Ki 4:25 So she went and came unto the man of God to mount Carmel. And it came to pass, when the man of God saw her afar off, that he said to Gehazi his servant, Behold, *yonder is* that Shunammite:
- 2Ki 4:26 Run now, I pray thee, to meet her, and say unto her, *Is it* well with thee? *is it* well with thy husband? *is it* well with the child? And she answered, *It is* well.
- 2Ki 4:27 And when she came to the man of God to the hill, she caught him by the feet: but Gehazi came near to thrust her away. And the man of God said, Let her alone; for her soul *is* vexed within her: and the LORD hath hid *it* from me, and hath not told me.
- 2Ki 4:28 Then she said, Did I desire a son of my lord? did I not say, Do not deceive me?
- 2Ki 4:29 Then he said to Gehazi, Gird up thy loins, and take my staff in thine hand, and go thy way: if thou meet any man, salute him not; and if any salute thee, answer him not again: and lay my staff upon the face of the child.
- 2Ki 4:30 And the mother of the child said, *As* the LORD lives, and *as* thy soul lives, I will not leave thee. And he arose, and followed her.
- 2Ki 4:31 And Gehazi passed on before them, and laid the staff upon the face of the child; but *there was* neither voice, nor hearing. Wherefore he went again to meet him, and told him, saying, The child is not awaked.
- 2Ki 4:32 And when Elisha was come into the house, behold, the child was dead, *and* laid upon his bed.
- 2Ki 4:33 He went in therefore, and shut the door upon them twain, and prayed unto the LORD.
- 2Ki 4:34 And he went up, and lay upon the child, and put his mouth upon his mouth, and his eyes upon his eyes, and his hands upon his hands: and he stretched himself upon the child; and the flesh of the child waxed warm.
- 2Ki 4:35 Then he returned, and walked in the house to and fro; and went up, and stretched himself upon him: and the child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes.
- 2Ki 4:36 And he called Gehazi, and said, Call this Shunammite. So he called her. And when she was come in unto him, he said, Take up thy son.
- 2Ki 4:37 Then she went in, and fell at his feet, and bowed herself to the ground, and took up her son, and went out.

Elisha Purifies the Deadly Stew

- 2Ki 4:38 And Elisha came again to Gilgal: and *there was* a dearth in the land; and the sons of the prophets *were* sitting before him: and he said unto his servant, Set on the great pot, and seethe pottage for the sons of the prophets.
- 2Ki 4:39 And one went out into the field to gather herbs, and found a wild vine, and gathered thereof wild gourds his lap full, and came and shred *them* into the pot of pottage: for they knew *them* not.
- 2Ki 4:40 So they poured out for the men to eat. And it came to pass, as they were eating of the pottage, that they cried out, and said, O *thou* man of God, *there is* death in the pot. And they could not eat *thereof*.
- 2Ki 4:41 But he said, Then bring meal. And he cast *it* into the pot; and he said, Pour out for the people, that they may eat. And there was no harm in the pot.
- 2Ki 4:42 And there came a man from Baalshalisha, and brought the man of God bread of the firstfruits, twenty loaves of barley, and full ears of corn in the husk thereof. And he said, Give unto the people, that they may eat.
- 2Ki 4:43 And his servitor said, What, should I set this before an hundred men? He said again, Give the people, that they may eat: for thus saith the LORD, They shall eat, and shall leave *thereof*.
- 2Ki 4:44 So he set *it* before them, and they did eat, and left *thereof*, according to the word of the LORD.

Thursday – September 19th

1. How does Paul describe the hidden life?

➤ Colossians 3:3 —

NOTE : ‘The more we know of God, the higher will be our ideal of character and the more earnest our longing to reflect His likeness. A divine element combines with the human when the soul reaches out after God and the longing heart can say, “My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from Him.” Psalm 62:5. The continual cry of the heart is, “More of Thee,” and ever the Spirit’s answer is, “Much more.” Romans 5:9, 10.’ —*The Faith I Live By*, page 109.

‘As we fully believe that we are His by adoption, we may have a foretaste of heaven. We have a nearness to Him, and can hold sweet communion with Him. We obtain distinct views of His tenderness and compassion, and our hearts are broken and melted with contemplation of the love that is given to us. We feel indeed an abiding Christ in the soul. We abide in Him, and feel at home with Jesus. We have a realising sense of the love of God, and we rest in His love. No language can describe it, it is beyond knowledge. We are one with Christ, our life is hid with Christ in God. We have the assurance that when He who is our life shall appear, then shall we also appear with Him in glory. With strong confidence we can call God our Father.’ —*God’s Amazing Grace*, page 54

2. Heaven’s Hotline

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Last Day Events***Thursday, September 19th, 2024******Last Day Events, Chapter 9, pp. 273*****“The Close of Probation”****--****“The Seven Last Plagues and the Wicked”****September 19th****At Times Holy Angels Exercise Destructive Power**

And God sent an angel unto Jerusalem to destroy it: and as he was destroying, the LORD beheld, and he repented him of the evil, and said to the angel that destroyed, It is enough, stay now thine hand. And the angel of the LORD stood by the threshingfloor of Ornan the Jebusite.

1 Chronicles 21:15

[THE SINNER MUST HIMSELF BEAR FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PUNISHMENT THAT IS METED OUT TO HIM. ELLEN WHITE STATES, "GOD DESTROYS NO ONE. THE SINNER DESTROYS HIMSELF BY HIS OWN IMPENITENCE." —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 120. See also *The Great Controversy*, pp. 25-37.]

God's judgments were awakened against Jericho. It was a stronghold. But the Captain of the Lord's host Himself came from heaven to lead the armies of heaven in an attack upon the city. Angels of God laid hold of the massive walls and brought them to the ground.—*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 3, p. 264 (1873).

Under God the angels are all-powerful. On one occasion, in obedience to the command of Christ, they slew of the Assyrian army in one night one hundred and eighty-five thousand men.—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 700 (1898).

The same angel who had come from the royal courts to rescue Peter had been the messenger of wrath and judgment to Herod. The angel smote Peter to arouse him from slumber. It was with a different stroke that he smote the wicked king, laying low his pride and bringing upon him the punishment of the Almighty. Herod died in great agony of mind and body, under the retributive judgment of God.—*Acts of the Apostles*, p. 152 (1911).

A single angel destroyed all the first-born of the Egyptians and filled the land with mourning. When David offended against God by numbering the people, one angel caused that terrible destruction by which his sin was punished. The same destructive power exercised by holy angels when God commands, will be exercised by evil angels when He permits. There are forces now ready, and only waiting the divine permission, to spread desolation everywhere.—*The Great Controversy*, p. 614 (1911).

Daily Scripture**Thursday, September 19th, 2024****2nd Kings Chapter 5****Naaman Healed of Leprosy**

- 2Ki 5:1 Now Naaman, captain of the host of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master, and honourable, because by him the LORD had given deliverance unto Syria: he was also a mighty man in valour, *but he was* a leper.
- 2Ki 5:2 And the Syrians had gone out by companies, and had brought away captive out of the land of Israel a little maid; and she waited on Naaman's wife.
- 2Ki 5:3 And she said unto her mistress, Would God my lord *were* with the prophet that *is* in Samaria! for he would recover him of his leprosy.
- 2Ki 5:4 And *one* went in, and told his lord, saying, Thus and thus said the maid that *is* of the land of Israel.
- 2Ki 5:5 And the king of Syria said, Go to, go, and I will send a letter unto the king of Israel. And he departed, and took with him ten talents of silver, and six thousand *pieces* of gold, and ten changes of raiment.
- 2Ki 5:6 And he brought the letter to the king of Israel, saying, Now when this letter is come unto thee, behold, I have *therewith* sent Naaman my servant to thee, that thou may recover him of his leprosy.
- 2Ki 5:7 And it came to pass, when the king of Israel had read the letter, that he rent his clothes, and said, *Am I* God, to kill and to make alive, that this man doth send unto me to recover a man of his leprosy? wherefore consider, I pray you, and see how he seeks a quarrel against me.
- 2Ki 5:8 And it was *so*, when Elisha the man of God had heard that the king of Israel had rent his clothes, that he sent to the king, saying, Wherefore hast thou rent thy clothes? let him come now to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel.
- 2Ki 5:9 So Naaman came with his horses and with his chariot, and stood at the door of the house of Elisha.
- 2Ki 5:10 And Elisha sent a messenger unto him, saying, Go and wash in Jordan seven times, and thy flesh shall come again to thee, and thou shalt be clean.
- 2Ki 5:11 But Naaman was wroth, and went away, and said, Behold, I thought, He will surely come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of the LORD his God, and strike his hand over the place, and recover the leper.
- 2Ki 5:12 *Are* not Abana and Pharpar, rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? may I not wash in them, and be clean? So he turned and went away in a rage.
- 2Ki 5:13 And his servants came near, and spake unto him, and said, My father, *if* the prophet had bid thee *do* *some* great thing, would thou not have done *it*? how much rather then, when he saith to thee, Wash, and be clean?
- 2Ki 5:14 Then went he down, and dipped himself seven times in Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God: and his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

Gehazi's Greed and Punishment

- 2Ki 5:15 And he returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and came, and stood before him: and he said, Behold, now I know that *there is* no God in all the earth, but in Israel: now therefore, I pray thee, take a blessing of thy servant.
- 2Ki 5:16 But he said, *As* the LORD lives, before whom I stand, I will receive none. And he urged him to take *it*; but he refused.
- 2Ki 5:17 And Naaman said, Shall there not then, I pray thee, be given to thy servant two mules' burden of earth? for thy servant will henceforth offer neither burnt offering nor sacrifice unto other gods, but unto the LORD.
- 2Ki 5:18 In this thing the LORD pardon thy servant, *that* when my master goeth into the house of Rimmon to worship there, and he leans on my hand, and I bow myself in the house of Rimmon: when I bow down myself in the house of Rimmon, the LORD pardon thy servant in this thing.
- 2Ki 5:19 And he said unto him, Go in peace. So he departed from him a little way.

- 2Ki 5:20 But Gehazi, the servant of Elisha the man of God, said, Behold, my master hath spared Naaman this Syrian, in not receiving at his hands that which he brought: but, *as* the LORD lives, I will run after him, and take somewhat of him.
- 2Ki 5:21 So Gehazi followed after Naaman. And when Naaman saw *him* running after him, he lighted down from the chariot to meet him, and said, *Is* all well?
- 2Ki 5:22 And he said, All *is* well. My master hath sent me, saying, Behold, even now there be come to me from mount Ephraim two young men of the sons of the prophets: give them, I pray thee, a talent of silver, and two changes of garments.
- 2Ki 5:23 And Naaman said, Be content, take two talents. And he urged him, and bound two talents of silver in two bags, with two changes of garments, and laid *them* upon two of his servants; and they bare *them* before him.
- 2Ki 5:24 And when he came to the tower, he took *them* from their hand, and bestowed *them* in the house: and he let the men go, and they departed.
- 2Ki 5:25 But he went in, and stood before his master. And Elisha said unto him, Whence *come thou*, Gehazi? And he said, Thy servant went no whither.
- 2Ki 5:26 And he said unto him, Went not mine heart *with thee*, when the man turned again from his chariot to meet thee? *Is it* a time to receive money, and to receive garments, and oliveyards, and vineyards, and sheep, and oxen, and menservants, and maidservants?
- 2Ki 5:27 The leprosy therefore of Naaman shall cleave unto thee, and unto thy seed for ever. And he went out from his presence a leper *as white* as snow.

*Preparation Day – September 20th***1. What will be the outcome of faithfulness in the hidden life?**➤ **Jeremiah 17:7-8** —

NOTE : ‘The object of the Christian life is fruit bearing, the reproduction of Christ’s character in the believer, that it may be reproduced in others. The plant does not germinate, grow, or bring forth fruit for itself, but to “give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater.” Isaiah 55:10. So no man is to live unto himself. The Christian is in the world as a representative of Christ, for the salvation of other souls. There can be no growth or fruitfulness in the life that is centred in self. If you have accepted Christ as a personal Saviour, you are to forget yourself, and try to help others. Talk of the love of Christ, tell of His goodness. Do every duty that presents itself. Carry the burden of souls upon your heart, and by every means in your power seek to save the lost. As you receive the Spirit of Christ, the Spirit of unselfish love and labour for others, you will grow and bring forth fruit. The graces of the Spirit will ripen in your character. Your faith will increase, your convictions deepen, your love be made perfect. More and more you will reflect the likeness of Christ in all that is pure, noble, and lovely. “The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance.” Gal. 5:22, 23. This fruit can never perish, but will produce after its kind a harvest unto eternal life. “When the fruit is brought forth, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest is come.” Christ is waiting with longing desire for the manifestation of Himself in His church. When the character of Christ shall be perfectly reproduced in His people, then He will come to claim them as His own. — *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 67-69.

‘Those who are in connection with God are channels for the power of the Holy Spirit. The inner life of the soul will reveal itself in the outward conduct.’ — *In Heavenly Places*, page 22

2. Heaven’s Hotline

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Last Day Events***Preparation Day, September 20th, 2024******Last Day Events, Chapter 9, pp. 274*****“The Close of Probation”****--****“The Seven Last Plagues and the Wicked”****September 20th****The First Two Plagues**

And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image. And the second angel poured out his vial upon the sea; and it became as the blood of a dead man: and every living soul died in the sea.

Revelation 16:2, 3

When Christ ceases His intercession in the sanctuary, the unmingled wrath threatened against those who worship the beast and his image and receive his mark (Revelation 14:9, 10), will be poured out. The plagues upon Egypt when God was about to deliver Israel, were similar in character to those more terrible and extensive judgments which are to fall upon the world just before the final deliverance of God's people. Says the Revelator, in describing those terrific scourges: "There fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshiped his image." The sea "became as the blood of a dead man: and every living soul died in the sea" [Revelation 16:2, 3].—*The Great Controversy*, p. 627, 628 (1911).

The plagues were falling upon the inhabitants of the earth. Some were denouncing God and cursing Him. Others rushed to the people of God and begged to be taught how they might escape His judgments. But the saints had nothing for them. The last tear for sinners had been shed, the last agonizing prayer offered, the last burden borne, the last warning given.—*Early Writings*, p. 281 (1858).

Daily Scripture**Preparation Day, September 20th, 2024****2nd Kings Chapter 6****The Axe Head Recovered**

- 2Ki 6:1 And the sons of the prophets said unto Elisha, Behold now, the place where we dwell with thee is too strait for us.
- 2Ki 6:2 Let us go, we pray thee, unto Jordan, and take thence every man a beam, and let us make us a place there, where we may dwell. And he answered, Go ye.
- 2Ki 6:3 And one said, Be content, I pray thee, and go with thy servants. And he answered, I will go.
- 2Ki 6:4 So he went with them. And when they came to Jordan, they cut down wood.
- 2Ki 6:5 But as one was felling a beam, the axe head fell into the water: and he cried, and said, Alas, master! for it was borrowed.
- 2Ki 6:6 And the man of God said, Where fell it? And he shewed him the place. And he cut down a stick, and cast *it* in thither; and the iron did swim.
- 2Ki 6:7 Therefore said he, Take *it* up to you. And he put out his hand, and took it.

Horses and Chariots of Fire

- 2Ki 6:8 Then the king of Syria warred against Israel, and took counsel with his servants, saying, In such and such a place *shall be* my camp.
- 2Ki 6:9 And the man of God sent unto the king of Israel, saying, Beware that thou pass not such a place; for thither the Syrians are come down.
- 2Ki 6:10 And the king of Israel sent to the place which the man of God told him and warned him of, and saved himself there, not once nor twice.
- 2Ki 6:11 Therefore the heart of the king of Syria was sore troubled for this thing; and he called his servants, and said unto them, Will ye not shew me which of us *is* for the king of Israel?
- 2Ki 6:12 And one of his servants said, None, my lord, O king: but Elisha, the prophet that *is* in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words that thou speaks in thy bedchamber.
- 2Ki 6:13 And he said, Go and spy where he *is*, that I may send and fetch him. And it was told him, saying, Behold, *he is* in Dothan.
- 2Ki 6:14 Therefore sent he thither horses, and chariots, and a great host: and they came by night, and compassed the city about.
- 2Ki 6:15 And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do?
- 2Ki 6:16 And he answered, Fear not: for they that *be* with us *are* more than they that *be* with them.
- 2Ki 6:17 And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain *was* full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.
- 2Ki 6:18 And when they came down to him, Elisha prayed unto the LORD, and said, Smite this people, I pray thee, with blindness. And he smote them with blindness according to the word of Elisha.
- 2Ki 6:19 And Elisha said unto them, This *is* not the way, neither *is* this the city: follow me, and I will bring you to the man whom ye seek. But he led them to Samaria.
- 2Ki 6:20 And it came to pass, when they were come into Samaria, that Elisha said, LORD, open the eyes of these *men*, that they may see. And the LORD opened their eyes, and they saw; and, behold, *they were* in the midst of Samaria.
- 2Ki 6:21 And the king of Israel said unto Elisha, when he saw them, My father, shall I smite *them*? shall I smite *them*?

2Ki 6:22 And he answered, Thou shalt not smite *them*: would thou smite those whom thou hast taken captive with thy sword and with thy bow? set bread and water before them, that they may eat and drink, and go to their master.

2Ki 6:23 And he prepared great provision for them: and when they had eaten and drunk, he sent them away, and they went to their master. So the bands of Syria came no more into the land of Israel.

Benhadad's Siege of Samaria

2Ki 6:24 And it came to pass after this, that Benhadad king of Syria gathered all his host, and went up, and besieged Samaria.

2Ki 6:25 And there was a great famine in Samaria: and, behold, they besieged it, until an ass's head was *sold* for fourscore *pieces* of silver, and the fourth part of a cab of dove's dung for five *pieces* of silver.

2Ki 6:26 And as the king of Israel was passing by upon the wall, there cried a woman unto him, saying, Help, my lord, O king.

2Ki 6:27 And he said, If the LORD do not help thee, whence shall I help thee? out of the barn floor, or out of the winepress?

2Ki 6:28 And the king said unto her, What ails thee? And she answered, This woman said unto me, Give thy son, that we may eat him to day, and we will eat my son tomorrow.

2Ki 6:29 So we boiled my son, and did eat him: and I said unto her on the next day, Give thy son, that we may eat him: and she hath hid her son.

2Ki 6:30 And it came to pass, when the king heard the words of the woman, that he rent his clothes; and he passed by upon the wall, and the people looked, and, behold, *he had* sackcloth within upon his flesh.

2Ki 6:31 Then he said, God do so and more also to me, if the head of Elisha the son of Shaphat shall stand on him this day.

2Ki 6:32 But Elisha sat in his house, and the elders sat with him; and *the king* sent a man from before him: but ere the messenger came to him, he said to the elders, See ye how this son of a murderer hath sent to take away mine head? look, when the messenger cometh, shut the door, and hold him fast at the door: *is* not the sound of his master's feet behind him?

2Ki 6:33 And while he yet talked with them, behold, the messenger came down unto him: and he said, Behold, this evil *is* of the LORD; what should I wait for the LORD any longer?

*Adult Mission Story**Preparation Day, September 20th, 2024*

When Stephanie and her future husband started talking about having a family in their native Costa Rica, they realized that they shared something in common. They both wanted to have two biological children and to adopt a third child.

Five years after their wedding, however, the couple didn't have any children. So, they decided to adopt a baby.

Costa Rica's adoption agency informed them that it wouldn't be easy. They would have to wait in a long line, and there was no guarantee that they would receive a baby. The child offered for adoption might be a teen.

A few months later, Stephanie got pregnant with a girl. Three years later, she gave birth to a boy. Nine years passed, and she and her husband remembered their desire to adopt a child. But who? When? Where? And how?

"No problem, I'll pray," Stephanie told her husband.

"I'll ask God to make the child come to us instead of us searching for the child."

Stephanie prayed. Then she forgot about it.

One Sabbath, Stephanie offered Bible studies to a visitor who had showed up for the first time at church that day.

The woman agreed, saying, "Come to my house. I'm the mother of 10."

It turned out that the woman was a caregiver at an orphanage. The orphanage consisted of 15 houses with 10 children in each house. A caregiver oversaw each house.

Stephanie went to the orphanage and gave Bible studies to the caregiver and her 10 children. The caregiver gave her heart to Jesus and was baptized.

The orphanage director, seeing that the Bible studies had a positive impact on the caregiver and her work, asked Stephanie to give Bible studies in the other 14 houses at the orphanage. Stephanie took the request to the board of her church, and the church sent church members to each of the 14 houses. Stephanie was assigned to House No. 7.

Eleven-year-old Michelle lived in House No. 7. From the first day, Michelle caught Stephanie's attention. She carried Stephanie's bag. She was attentive, and she participated in the Bible studies. The woman and the girl formed a close bond.

With permission from the orphanage, Stephanie took Michelle to evangelistic meetings, and she got baptized. Then the girl began to ask, "Why don't you adopt me?"

Stephanie thought, "Why don't I adopt her?" At home, she told her husband about the request. The couple wondered if Michelle might be the child whom they had prayed to adopt. They asked God for confirmation.

Then Stephanie remembered an experience that had taken place three or four years earlier, long before she had met Michelle. She had invited a woman to share her personal testimony in church. The woman had been visiting various churches to tell her story about going prison, losing her six children to social services, and becoming an Adventist after listening to Adventist radio in prison. The woman had never made it to Stephanie's church, and Stephanie had lost touch with her.

Now Stephanie wondered what had happened to the woman. She looked on social media and saw that the woman had left the Adventist church. As she scrolled down the woman's timeline, she saw a photo of Michelle with the words, "My baby."

Stephanie was shocked. The woman was the mother of Michelle at the orphanage.

A few days later, Stephanie saw Michelle at a birthday party at House No. 7. During the party, Michelle asked if she could borrow Stephanie's phone, saying, "Do you want to see my mother?" When Stephanie nodded, the girl found a photo of her mother online and showed it to Stephanie. It was the woman whom Stephanie had invited to speak at her church. For Stephanie, it was all the confirmation that she needed. She was convinced that God had sent Michelle to her family to adopt.

Stephanie spoke with the orphanage director about adoption. She assured the director that she had not known that her social-media friend was Michelle's mother when she had first come to the orphanage. The director assured Stephanie that there would be no problem if she never contacted the mother again.

In a short time, Michelle moved into her new home. She was 12. It would take four more years for her to be officially adopted, but that didn't matter. She was at home.

Today, Stephanie couldn't be happier. Her dream has come true. She has two biological children and an adopted daughter.


This mission story provides an inside look at life in Costa Rica and missional challenges there. Next Sabbath's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help open a center of influence where Jesus' love can be shared with at-risk children, including orphans.

By Andrew McChesney


LESSON 13


“THE END OF YOUR FAITH”


September 21 — September 27

 **MEMORY VERSE :** ‘Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.’ [1 Peter 1:9]

? STUDY HELP :  Christian Service, pages 271-275

 **SCRIPTURE :** 1 Peter 1:3-9

 **LESSON AIM :** To study what is the aim or goal of the life of faith.

 **INTRODUCTION :** ‘Only those who practice holiness in this life will see the King in His beauty. Put away all vain, trifling talk, and everything of a frivolous and sensational nature. Do not engross your mind with thoughts of worldly entertainments and pleasures. Engage in the work of saving your soul. If you should lose your soul, it would have been better for you never to have been born. But you need not lose your soul. You may use every moment of this God-given life to His name’s glory. Strengthen yourself to resist the powers of darkness, that they shall not obtain a victory over you.’ *Sermons & Talks, volume 2, page 176.*

Sabbath – September 21st

1. What assurance did the Lord give to Abraham?

➤ **Genesis 15:1** —

NOTE : ‘We need the faith of Abraham in our day, to lighten the darkness that gathers around us, shutting out the sweet sunlight of God’s love, and dwarfing spiritual growth. Our faith should be prolific of good works; for faith without works is dead. Every duty performed, every sacrifice made in the name of Jesus, brings an exceeding great reward. In the very act of duty, God speaks and gives His blessing.’
—*Reflecting Christ, page 79.*

2. Heaven’s Hotline

➤

E. G. W. Study Help 1*Sabbath, September 21st, 2024***Christian Service,
Chapter 27, p. 271-275****"Reward of Service"**

In fellowship with God, with Christ, and with holy angels, they are surrounded with a heavenly atmosphere, an atmosphere that brings health to the body, vigour to the intellect, and joy to the soul.—*Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 6, p. 306.* {ChS 271.1}

The pleasure of doing good to others imparts a glow to the feelings which flashes through the nerves, quickens the circulation of the blood, and induces mental and physical health. —*Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 4, p. 56.* V{ChS 271.2}

Strength.--Let a strong man be shut away from labour, and he becomes feeble. That church or those persons who shut themselves away from bearing burdens for others, who shut themselves up to themselves, will soon suffer spiritual feebleness. It is labour that keeps the strong man strong. And spiritual labour, toil, and burden-bearing, is what will give strength to the church of Christ. —*Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 2, p. 22.* {ChS 271.3}

Peace.--In doing for others, a sweet satisfaction will be experienced, an inward peace which will be a sufficient reward. When actuated by a high and noble desire to do others good, they will find true happiness in a faithful discharge of life's manifold duties. This will bring more than an earthly reward; for every faithful, unselfish performance of duty is noticed by the angels, and shines in the life record. —*Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 2, p. 132.* {ChS 271.4}

Future Reward

Eternal Life.--By earnest, thoughtful efforts to help where help is needed, the true Christian shows his love for God and for his fellow beings. He may lose his life in service; but when Christ comes to gather His jewels to Himself, he will find it again. —*Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 9, p. 56.* {ChS 271.5}

A Gracious Welcome Home.--Stand on the threshold of eternity, and hear the gracious welcome given to those who in this life have co-operated with Christ, regarding it as a privilege and an honour to suffer for His sake. . . . There the redeemed ones greet those who directed them to the uplifted Saviour. They unite in praising Him who died that human beings might have the life that measures with the life of God. The conflict is over. All tribulation and strife are at an end. Songs of victory fill all heaven, as the redeemed stand around the throne of God. All take up the joyful strain, "Worthy, worthy is the Lamb that was slain," and hath redeemed us to God.—*The Ministry of Healing, pp. 506, 507.* {ChS 271.6}

If the record shows that this has been their life, that their characters have been marked with tenderness, self-denial, and benevolence, they will receive the blessed assurance and benediction from Christ, "Well done." "Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." —*Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 3, p. 525.* {ChS 272.1}

Heavenly Environment.--Now the church is militant. Now we are confronted with a world in darkness, almost wholly given over to idolatry. But the day is coming when the battle will have been fought, the victory won. The will of God is to be done on earth as it is done in heaven. The nations of the saved will know no other law than the law of heaven. All will be a happy, united family, clothed with the garments of praise and thanksgiving,—the robe of Christ's righteousness. All nature, in its surpassing loveliness, will offer to God a tribute of praise and adoration. The world will be bathed in the light of heaven. The light of the moon will be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun will be sevenfold greater than it is now. The years will move on in gladness. Over the scene the morning

stars will sing together, and the sons of God will shout for joy, while God and Christ will unite in proclaiming, "There shall be no more sin, neither shall there be any more death." —*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 504. {ChS 272.2}

Joy.--It is the reward of Christ's workers to enter into His joy. That joy, to which Christ Himself looks forward with eager desire, is presented in His request to His Father, "I will that they also, whom Thou hast given Me, be with Me where I am." —*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 6, p. 309. {ChS 272.3}

In our life here, earthly, sin-restricted, though it is, the greatest joy and the highest education are in service. And in the future state, untrammelled by the limitations of sinful humanity, it is in service that our greatest joy and our highest education will be found,—witnessing, and ever as we witness learning anew "the riches of the glory of this mystery," "which is Christ in you, the hope of glory."—*Education*, p. 309. {ChS 272.4}

They share in the sufferings of Christ, and they will share also in the glory that shall be revealed. One with Him in His work, drinking with Him the cup of sorrow, they are partakers also of His joy.—*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, p. 12. {ChS 273.1}

Fruitage of Seed-Sowing.--Every impulse of the Holy Spirit leading men to goodness and to God, is noted in the books of heaven, and in the day of God everyone who has given himself as an instrument for the Holy Spirit's working will be permitted to behold what his life has wrought. —*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 6, p. 310. {ChS 273.2}

When the redeemed stand before God, precious souls will respond to their names who are there because of the faithful, patient efforts put forth in their behalf, the entreaties and earnest persuasions to flee to the Stronghold. Thus those who in this world have been labourers together with God will receive their reward. —*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 8, pp. 196, 197. {ChS 273.3}

What rejoicing there will be as these redeemed ones meet and greet those who have had a burden in their behalf! And those who have lived, not to please themselves, but to be a blessing to the unfortunate who have so few blessings, --how their hearts will thrill with satisfaction! They will realize the promise, "Thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just."—*Gospel Workers*, p. 519. {ChS 273.4}

In heaven we shall see the youth whom we helped, those whom we invited to our homes, whom we led from temptation. We shall see their faces reflecting the radiance of the glory of God. —*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 6, p. 348. {ChS 273.5}

To be a co-worker with Christ and the heavenly angels in the great plan of salvation! What work can bear any comparison with this! From every soul saved, there comes to God a revenue of glory, to be reflected upon the one saved, and also upon the one instrumental in his salvation. —*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 2, p. 232. {ChS 273.6}

The redeemed will meet and recognize those whose attention they have directed to the uplifted Saviour. What blessed converse they will have with these souls! "I was a sinner," it will be said, "without God and without hope in the world; and you came to me, and drew my attention to the precious Saviour as my only hope. And I believed in Him. I repented of my sins, and was made to sit together with His saints in heavenly places in Christ Jesus." Others will say: "I was a heathen in heathen lands. You left your friends and comfortable home, and came to teach me how to find Jesus, and believe in Him as the only true God. I demolished my idols, and worshiped God, and now I see Him face to face. I am saved, eternally saved, ever to behold Him whom I love. I then saw Him only with the eye of faith, but now I see Him as He is. I can now express my gratitude for His redeeming mercy to Him who loved me, and washed me from my sins in His own blood."—*Gospel Workers*, p. 518. {ChS 274.1}

Others will express their gratitude to those who fed the hungry and clothed the naked. "When despair bound my soul in unbelief, the Lord sent you to me," they say, "to speak words of hope and comfort. You brought me food for my physical necessities, and you opened to me the Word of God, awakening me to my spiritual needs. You treated me as a brother. You sympathized with me in my sorrows, and restored my bruised and wounded soul, so that I could grasp the hand of Christ that was reached out to save me. In my ignorance you taught me patiently that I had a Father in heaven who cared for me. You read to me the precious promises of God's Word. You inspired in me

faith that He would save me. My heart was softened, subdued, broken, as I contemplated the sacrifice which Christ had made for me. I became hungry for the bread of life, and the truth was precious to my soul. I am here, saved, eternally saved, ever to live in His presence, and to praise Him who gave His life for me."—*Gospel Workers*, pp. 518, 519. {ChS 274.2}

Patiently Wait for the Reward

If the time seems long to wait for our Deliverer to come; if, bowed by affliction and worn with toil, we feel impatient for our commission to close, and to receive an honourable release from the warfare, let us remember--and let the remembrance check every murmur--that God leaves us on earth to encounter storms and conflicts, to perfect Christian character, to become better acquainted with God our Father and Christ our Elder Brother, and to do work for the Master in winning many souls to Christ, that with glad heart we may hear the words, "Well done, good and faithful servant; enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."—*Review and Herald*, Oct. 25, 1881. {ChS 274.3}

Be patient, Christian soldier. Yet a little while, and He that shall come, will come. The night of weary waiting, and watching, and mourning is nearly over. The reward will soon be given; the eternal day will dawn. There is no time to sleep now,--no time to indulge in useless regrets. He who ventures to slumber now will miss precious opportunities of doing good. We are granted the blessed privilege of gathering sheaves in the great harvest; and every soul saved will be an additional star in the crown of Jesus, our adorable Redeemer. Who is eager to lay off the armour, when by pushing the battle a little longer, he will achieve new victories and gather new trophies for eternity?—*Review and Herald*, Oct. 25, 1881. {ChS 275.1}

Last Day Events***Sabbath, September 21st, 2024******Last Day Events, Chapter 8, pp. 275*****“The Loud Cry”****--****“The Seal of God and the Mark of the Beast”****September 21st****The Third Plague**

And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood.

Revelation 16:4

I saw that the four angels would hold the four winds until Jesus' work was done in the sanctuary, and then will come the seven last plagues. These plagues enraged the wicked against the righteous; they thought that we had brought the judgments of God upon them and that if they could rid the earth of us the plagues would then be stayed. A decree went forth to slay the saints, which caused them to cry day and night for deliverance.—*Early Writings*, p. 36-37 (1851).

And "the rivers and fountains of waters . . . became blood." Terrible as these inflictions are, God's justice stands fully vindicated. The angel of God declares: "Thou art righteous, O Lord, . . . because Thou hast judged thus. For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and Thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy" (Revelation 16:2-6). By condemning the people of God to death, they have as truly incurred the guilt of their blood as if it had been shed by their hands.—*The Great Controversy*, p. 628 (1911).

Daily Scripture**Sabbath, September 21st, 2024****2nd Kings Chapter 7****Elisha Promises Food**

2Ki 7:1 Then Elisha said, Hear ye the word of the LORD; Thus saith the LORD, Tomorrow about this time *shall* a measure of fine flour *be sold* for a shekel, and two measures of barley for a shekel, in the gate of Samaria.

2Ki 7:2 Then a lord on whose hand the king leaned answered the man of God, and said, Behold, *if* the LORD would make windows in heaven, might this thing be? And he said, Behold, thou shalt see *it* with thine eyes, but shalt not eat thereof.

The Syrians Flee

2Ki 7:3 And there were four leprous men at the entering in of the gate: and they said one to another, Why sit we here until we die?

2Ki 7:4 If we say, We will enter into the city, then the famine *is* in the city, and we shall die there: and if we sit still here, we die also. Now therefore come, and let us fall unto the host of the Syrians: if they save us alive, we shall live; and if they kill us, we shall but die.

2Ki 7:5 And they rose up in the twilight, to go unto the camp of the Syrians: and when they were come to the uttermost part of the camp of Syria, behold, *there was* no man there.

2Ki 7:6 For the Lord had made the host of the Syrians to hear a noise of chariots, and a noise of horses, *even* the noise of a great host: and they said one to another, Lo, the king of Israel hath hired against us the kings of the Hittites, and the kings of the Egyptians, to come upon us.

2Ki 7:7 Wherefore they arose and fled in the twilight, and left their tents, and their horses, and their asses, even the camp as it *was*, and fled for their life.

2Ki 7:8 And when these lepers came to the uttermost part of the camp, they went into one tent, and did eat and drink, and carried thence silver, and gold, and raiment, and went and hid *it*; and came again, and entered into another tent, and carried thence *also*, and went and hid *it*.

2Ki 7:9 Then they said one to another, We do not well: this day *is* a day of good tidings, and we hold our peace: if we tarry till the morning light, some mischief will come upon us: now therefore come, that we may go and tell the king's household.

2Ki 7:10 So they came and called unto the porter of the city: and they told them, saying, We came to the camp of the Syrians, and, behold, *there was* no man there, neither voice of man, but horses tied, and asses tied, and the tents as they *were*.

2Ki 7:11 And he called the porters; and they told *it* to the king's house within.

2Ki 7:12 And the king arose in the night, and said unto his servants, I will now shew you what the Syrians have done to us. They know that we *be* hungry; therefore are they gone out of the camp to hide themselves in the field, saying, When they come out of the city, we shall catch them alive, and get into the city.

2Ki 7:13 And one of his servants answered and said, Let *some* take, I pray thee, five of the horses that remain, which are left in the city, (behold, they *are* as all the multitude of Israel that are left in it: behold, *I say*, they *are* even as all the multitude of the Israelites that are consumed:) and let us send and see.

2Ki 7:14 They took therefore two chariot horses; and the king sent after the host of the Syrians, saying, Go and see.

2Ki 7:15 And they went after them unto Jordan: and, lo, all the way *was* full of garments and vessels, which the Syrians had cast away in their haste. And the messengers returned, and told the king.

2Ki 7:16 And the people went out, and spoiled the tents of the Syrians. So a measure of fine flour was *sold* for a shekel, and two measures of barley for a shekel, according to the word of the LORD.

2Ki 7:17 And the king appointed the lord on whose hand he leaned to have the charge of the gate: and the people trode upon him in the gate, and he died, as the man of God had said, who spake when the king came down to him.

- 2Ki 7:18 And it came to pass as the man of God had spoken to the king, saying, Two measures of barley for a shekel, and a measure of fine flour for a shekel, shall be tomorrow about this time in the gate of Samaria:
- 2Ki 7:19 And that lord answered the man of God, and said, Now, behold, *if* the LORD should make windows in heaven, might such a thing be? And he said, Behold, thou shalt see it with thine eyes, but shalt not eat thereof.
- 2Ki 7:20 And so it fell out unto him: for the people trode upon him in the gate, and he died.

*Children's Mission Story**Sabbath, September 21st, 2024*

Jerry hasn't said a word since he arrived on the first day of school.

Dressed in festive white, pink, black, and grey colours, he sits silently on a table in the third-grade classroom of a Seventh-day Adventist school on the island of Dominica.

Jerry usually only gets off the table when someone prays.

When teacher prays, she holds him for a minute or two.

When a third-grade boy prays, he holds him.

When a third-grade girl prays, she holds him.

When a visitor comes to the classroom and prays, the visitor holds him.

You've probably guessed that Jerry isn't a normal boy. Jerry is a square cookie box wrapped in bright wrapping paper. Even though he can't say a word, he is filled with many important words written on pieces of paper.

Each of those papers contains a silent prayer request.

It all started on the first day of class. Teacher carried the wrapped-up box into the school and showed it to the children.

"This is a time capsule," she said.

Then she passed out yellow and green pieces of paper.

“On your paper, write your name and something that you would like to pray about this school term,” she said.

After the children finished writing, the papers were placed in the box, and the box was sealed. Teacher said the class would open the box at the end of the school year to see how God had answered their prayers.

Then 9-year-old Zyane raised his hand.

“Can we name the time capsule?” he asked.

When the teacher nodded her head, he exclaimed, “Jerry, the time capsule!”

All the children burst into applause and cheered.

Zyane was the first person to pick up Jerry and pray over the box.

“Dear God, thank You for Jerry,” he said.

As the weeks and months passed, other children also took turns holding Jerry and praying.

“Help us to achieve our goals,” one prayed.

“Make our wishes come true,” prayed another.

When guests like the school principal, pastors, and church leaders visited the classroom, the children asked them to hold the box and pray.

The children wondered if God would answer their prayers. They didn’t have to wait until the end of the school year to find out.

Halfway through the school year, 8-year-old Sarah waved her hand in the air.

“Miss! Miss! I have something to say,” she said.

“What is it?” Teacher asked.

Sarah said God had answered the prayer request that she had written on a piece of paper inside of Jerry.

“I want to thank God because I wrote on my paper that I wanted to be able to read, and my reading has improved,” she said. “I’m reading better.”

Then a number of little hands shot up into the air in the classroom. More children had stories of God answering their prayers.

Eight-year-old Amber said that she had prayed to get straight A’s, and she was getting straight A’s.

“I’m going to keep praying,” she said.

Eight-year-old Kahmar said that he had prayed to see his father. He hadn’t seen his father since he was 3 because he lived on another island. But then Father surprised him by showing up on a recent weekend.

“I was so surprised,” Kahmar said. “I even cried.”

The two went fishing together. They visited the beach and went kayaking. On a hike, Kahmar saw something brown, like a stick, on the trail. When he ran over to look, he saw that it was the tail of an iguana! It had been a wonderful weekend with Father.

When the children's praises ended, Teacher bowed her head and offered a prayer of thanksgiving.

"As Jesus said, 'All things are possible to him who believes,'" she said.

She was reciting from Mark 9:23.

Jerry is only a box. He can't speak. But God heard the silent prayer requests tucked inside of him. The third-grade class is eagerly waiting for the end of the school year to find out which other prayer requests God is going to answer.

Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help Ebenezer Seventh-day Adventist Primary School, where the children are praying for a new and larger building. A bigger school will allow more children to learn about the God who answers prayers. The Thirteenth Sabbath Offering also will help open two centers of influence for at-risk children in Colombia, a center of influence for at-risk children in Costa Rica, and two centers of influence to reach upper-class people in Mexico. Thank you for your generous offering today.

By Andrew McChesney

Sunday – June 22nd

1. What was the reason for God’s promise of a reward to Abraham?

➤ **Genesis 22:16-18** —

➤ **Genesis 26:2-5** —

NOTE : ‘This great act of faith is pencilled on the pages of sacred history to shine forth upon the world as an illustrious example to the end of time. Abraham did not plead that his old age should excuse him from obeying God. He did not say: “My hairs are grey, the vigour of my manhood is gone; who will comfort my waning life when Isaac is no more? How can an aged father spill the blood of an only son?” No; God had spoken, and man must obey without questioning, murmuring, or fainting by the way. We need the faith of Abraham in our churches today, to lighten the darkness that gathers around them, shutting out the sweet sunlight of God’s love and dwarfing spiritual growth. Age will never excuse us from obeying God. Our faith should be prolific of good works, for faith without works is dead. Every duty performed, every sacrifice made in the name of Jesus, brings an exceeding great reward. In the very act of duty, God speaks and gives His blessing. But He requires of us an entire surrender of the faculties. The mind and heart, the whole being, must be given to Him, or we fall short of becoming true Christians.’ —*Testimonies for the Church, volume 4, pages 144-145.*

2. What does Peter exhort Christians to be like as they look for the coming of Christ?

➤ **1 Peter 1:13-16** —

NOTE : ‘Truth is not truth to those who do not practise it. Truth is only truth to you when you live it in the daily life, showing the world what those people must be who are at last saved. “Wherefore, gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; as obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance.”’ —*General Conference Daily Bulletin, April 3, 1901*

3. Heaven’s Hotline

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Last Day Events***Sunday, September 22nd, 2024******Last Day Events, Chapter 9, pp. 276*****“The Close of Probation”****--****“The Seven Last Plagues and the Wicked”****September 22nd****The Fourth Plague**

And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire.

Revelation 16:8

In the plague that follows, power is given to the sun "to scorch men with fire. And men were scorched with great heat" (Revelation 16:8, 9). The prophets thus describe the condition of the earth at this fearful time: "*The land mourns; . . . because the harvest of the field is perished. . . . All the trees of the field are withered: because joy is withered away from the sons of men.*" [Joel 1:10-12] "*The seed is rotten under their clods, the garners are laid desolate. . . . How do the beasts groan! the herds of cattle are perplexed, because they have no pasture. . . . The rivers of water are dried up, and the fire hath devoured the pastures of the wilderness.*" [Joel 1:17-20] "*The songs of the temple shall be howlings in that day, saith the Lord God: there shall be many dead bodies in every place; they shall cast them forth with silence.*" [Amos 8:3]

These plagues are not universal, or the inhabitants of the earth would be wholly cut off. Yet they will be the most awful scourges that have ever been known to mortals.—*The Great Controversy*, p. 628, 629 (1911).

Daily Scripture**Sunday, September 22nd, 2024****2nd Kings Chapter 8****The Shunammite's Land Restored**

- 2Ki 8:1 Then spake Elisha unto the woman, whose son he had restored to life, saying, Arise, and go thou and thine household, and sojourn wheresoever thou canst sojourn: for the LORD hath called for a famine; and it shall also come upon the land seven years.
- 2Ki 8:2 And the woman arose, and did after the saying of the man of God: and she went with her household, and sojourned in the land of the Philistines seven years.
- 2Ki 8:3 And it came to pass at the seven years' end, that the woman returned out of the land of the Philistines: and she went forth to cry unto the king for her house and for her land.
- 2Ki 8:4 And the king talked with Gehazi the servant of the man of God, saying, Tell me, I pray thee, all the great things that Elisha hath done.
- 2Ki 8:5 And it came to pass, as he was telling the king how he had restored a dead body to life, that, behold, the woman, whose son he had restored to life, cried to the king for her house and for her land. And Gehazi said, My lord, O king, this *is* the woman, and this *is* her son, whom Elisha restored to life.
- 2Ki 8:6 And when the king asked the woman, she told him. So the king appointed unto her a certain officer, saying, Restore all that *was* hers, and all the fruits of the field since the day that she left the land, even until now.

Hazael Murders Benhadad

- 2Ki 8:7 And Elisha came to Damascus; and Benhadad the king of Syria was sick; and it was told him, saying, The man of God is come hither.
- 2Ki 8:8 And the king said unto Hazael, Take a present in thine hand, and go, meet the man of God, and enquire of the LORD by him, saying, Shall I recover of this disease?
- 2Ki 8:9 So Hazael went to meet him, and took a present with him, even of every good thing of Damascus, forty camels' burden, and came and stood before him, and said, Thy son Benhadad king of Syria hath sent me to thee, saying, Shall I recover of this disease?
- 2Ki 8:10 And Elisha said unto him, Go, say unto him, Thou may certainly recover: howbeit the LORD hath shewed me that he shall surely die.
- 2Ki 8:11 And he settled his countenance steadfastly, until he was ashamed: and the man of God wept.
- 2Ki 8:12 And Hazael said, Why weep my lord? And he answered, Because I know the evil that thou wilt do unto the children of Israel: their strong holds wilt thou set on fire, and their young men wilt thou slay with the sword, and wilt dash their children, and rip up their women with child.
- 2Ki 8:13 And Hazael said, But what, *is* thy servant a dog, that he should do this great thing? And Elisha answered, The LORD hath shewed me that thou *shalt be* king over Syria.
- 2Ki 8:14 So he departed from Elisha, and came to his master; who said to him, What said Elisha to thee? And he answered, He told me *that* thou should surely recover.
- 2Ki 8:15 And it came to pass on the morrow, that he took a thick cloth, and dipped *it* in water, and spread *it* on his face, so that he died: and Hazael reigned in his stead.

Jehoram Reigns in Judah

- 2Ki 8:16 And in the fifth year of Joram the son of Ahab king of Israel, Jehoshaphat *being* then king of Judah, Jehoram the son of Jehoshaphat king of Judah began to reign.
- 2Ki 8:17 Thirty and two years old was he when he began to reign; and he reigned eight years in Jerusalem.
- 2Ki 8:18 And he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, as did the house of Ahab: for the daughter of Ahab was his wife: and he did evil in the sight of the LORD.
- 2Ki 8:19 Yet the LORD would not destroy Judah for David his servant's sake, as he promised him to give him always a light, *and* to his children.

- 2Ki 8:20 In his days Edom revolted from under the hand of Judah, and made a king over themselves.
- 2Ki 8:21 So Joram went over to Zair, and all the chariots with him: and he rose by night, and smote the Edomites which compassed him about, and the captains of the chariots: and the people fled into their tents.
- 2Ki 8:22 Yet Edom revolted from under the hand of Judah unto this day. Then Libnah revolted at the same time.
- 2Ki 8:23 And the rest of the acts of Joram, and all that he did, *are* they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?
- 2Ki 8:24 And Joram slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David: and Ahaziah his son reigned in his stead.

Ahaziah Reigns in Judah

- 2Ki 8:25 In the twelfth year of Joram the son of Ahab king of Israel did Ahaziah the son of Jehoram king of Judah begin to reign.
- 2Ki 8:26 Two and twenty years old *was* Ahaziah when he began to reign; and he reigned one year in Jerusalem. And his mother's name *was* Athaliah, the daughter of Omri king of Israel.
- 2Ki 8:27 And he walked in the way of the house of Ahab, and did evil in the sight of the LORD, as *did* the house of Ahab: for he *was* the son in law of the house of Ahab.
- 2Ki 8:28 And he went with Joram the son of Ahab to the war against Hazael king of Syria in Ramothgilead; and the Syrians wounded Joram.
- 2Ki 8:29 And king Joram went back to be healed in Jezreel of the wounds which the Syrians had given him at Ramah, when he fought against Hazael king of Syria. And Ahaziah the son of Jehoram king of Judah went down to see Joram the son of Ahab in Jezreel, because he was sick.

Monday – June 23rd

1. On what basis does the Lord apportion His rewards?

➤ **Revelation 22:12** —

➤ **Proverbs 11:18** —

NOTE : The Bible uses the word ‘reward’ not only for the portion of the righteous, but also for the sentence pronounced upon the wicked. See Psalm 91:8, Isaiah 3:11. Compare Matthew 16:27.

‘There is a work for all to do for the Master. Every human being who has a vital connection with Christ will earnestly strive to carry forward the work committed to him. But no selfishness can enter God’s work. The most splendid service, if it originates with self, is useless. Unless the root is holy, no fruit can be borne to God’s glory. God calls upon every true worker to be an ambassador of love. The Lord is at the door, and all the manhood and womanhood of our spiritual being is to be called into activity. We are to be justified by faith and judged by works. God’s law claims obedience from all, and condemns disobedience. All are tested and proved, to see if they will keep the law of the heavenly courts. At this time, when universal contempt is shown by the professed Christian world to the royal law of Jehovah, God’s witnesses are to arise and show their loyalty by keeping his law. Their prayer will be, “It is time for thee, Lord, to work: for they have made void thy law.”’ Review & Herald, April 12, 1898.

2. What warning are we given concerning backsliding into sin after becoming Christians?

➤ **Hebrews 10:26-27** —

➤ **Hebrews 6:4-6** —

NOTE : It has been suggested by Calvinists that the Christian who backslides into sin will nonetheless gain eternal life but his reward will be lesser. This is a natural conclusion from the ‘once saved, always saved’ teaching that underlies all Calvinism. ‘There is no such thing in the Word of God as unconditional election, once in grace, always in grace. In the second chapter of Second Peter the subject is made plain and distinct. After a history of some who followed an evil course, the explanation is given: “Which have forsaken the right way, ... following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness.” 2 Peter 2:15. Here is a class of whom the apostle warns, “For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.” 2 Peter 2:21. There is truth to be received if souls are saved. The keeping of the commandments of God is life eternal to the receiver. But the Scriptures make it plain that those who once knew the way of life and rejoiced in the truth are in danger of falling through apostasy, and being lost. Therefore there is need of a decided, daily conversion to God. All who seek to sustain the doctrine of election, once in grace, always in grace, do this against a plain, “Thus says the Lord.” It depends upon your course of action as to whether or not you will secure the benefits bestowed upon those who, as the elect of God, receive an eternal life-insurance policy.’ —*The Faith I Live By*, page 157.

3. Heaven’s Hotline

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Last Day Events

Monday, September 23rd, 2024

Last Day Events, Chapter 9, pp. 277

“The Close of Probation”

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“The Seven Last Plagues and the Wicked”

September 23rd

The Fifth Plague

And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain,

Revelation 16:10

With shouts of triumph, jeering, and imprecation, throngs of evil men are about to rush upon their prey, when, lo, a dense blackness, deeper than the darkness of the night, falls upon the earth. Then a rainbow, shining with the glory from the throne of God, spans the heavens, and seems to encircle each praying company. The angry multitudes are suddenly arrested. Their mocking cries die away. The objects of their murderous rage are forgotten. With fearful forebodings they gaze upon the symbol of God's covenant, and long to be shielded from its overpowering brightness. . . .

It is at midnight that God manifests His power for the deliverance of His people. The sun appears, shining in its strength. Signs and wonders follow in quick succession. The wicked look with terror and amazement on the scene, while the righteous behold with solemn joy the tokens of their deliverance.—*The Great Controversy*, p. 635, 636 (1911).

Daily Scripture**Monday, September 23rd, 2024****2nd Kings Chapter 9****Jehu Anointed King of Israel**

- 2Ki 9:1 And Elisha the prophet called one of the children of the prophets, and said unto him, Gird up thy loins, and take this box of oil in thine hand, and go to Ramothgilead:
- 2Ki 9:2 And when thou come thither, look out there Jehu the son of Jehoshaphat the son of Nimshi, and go in, and make him arise up from among his brethren, and carry him to an inner chamber;
- 2Ki 9:3 Then take the box of oil, and pour *it* on his head, and say, Thus saith the LORD, I have anointed thee king over Israel. Then open the door, and flee, and tarry not.
- 2Ki 9:4 So the young man, *even* the young man the prophet, went to Ramothgilead.
- 2Ki 9:5 And when he came, behold, the captains of the host *were* sitting; and he said, I have an errand to thee, O captain. And Jehu said, Unto which of all us? And he said, To thee, O captain.
- 2Ki 9:6 And he arose, and went into the house; and he poured the oil on his head, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I have anointed thee king over the people of the LORD, *even* over Israel.
- 2Ki 9:7 And thou shalt smite the house of Ahab thy master, that I may avenge the blood of my servants the prophets, and the blood of all the servants of the LORD, at the hand of Jezebel.
- 2Ki 9:8 For the whole house of Ahab shall perish: and I will cut off from Ahab him that pisses against the wall, and him that is shut up and left in Israel:
- 2Ki 9:9 And I will make the house of Ahab like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and like the house of Baasha the son of Ahijah:
- 2Ki 9:10 And the dogs shall eat Jezebel in the portion of Jezreel, and *there shall be* none to bury *her*. And he opened the door, and fled.
- 2Ki 9:11 Then Jehu came forth to the servants of his lord: and *one* said unto him, *Is* all well? wherefore came this mad *fellow* to thee? And he said unto them, Ye know the man, and his communication.
- 2Ki 9:12 And they said, *It is* false; tell us now. And he said, Thus and thus spake he to me, saying, Thus saith the LORD, I have anointed thee king over Israel.
- 2Ki 9:13 Then they hasted, and took every man his garment, and put *it* under him on the top of the stairs, and blew with trumpets, saying, Jehu is king.

Jehu Assassinate Joram and Ahaziah

- 2Ki 9:14 So Jehu the son of Jehoshaphat the son of Nimshi conspired against Joram. (Now Joram had kept Ramothgilead, he and all Israel, because of Hazael king of Syria.
- 2Ki 9:15 But king Joram was returned to be healed in Jezreel of the wounds which the Syrians had given him, when he fought with Hazael king of Syria.) And Jehu said, If it be your minds, *then* let none go forth *nor* escape out of the city to go to tell *it* in Jezreel.
- 2Ki 9:16 So Jehu rode in a chariot, and went to Jezreel; for Joram lay there. And Ahaziah king of Judah was come down to see Joram.
- 2Ki 9:17 And there stood a watchman on the tower in Jezreel, and he spied the company of Jehu as he came, and said, I see a company. And Joram said, Take an horseman, and send to meet them, and let him say, *Is it* peace?
- 2Ki 9:18 So there went one on horseback to meet him, and said, Thus saith the king, *Is it* peace? And Jehu said, What hast thou to do with peace? turn thee behind me. And the watchman told, saying, The messenger came to them, but he cometh not again.
- 2Ki 9:19 Then he sent out a second on horseback, which came to them, and said, Thus saith the king, *Is it* peace? And Jehu answered, What hast thou to do with peace? turn thee behind me.

- 2Ki 9:20 And the watchman told, saying, He came even unto them, and cometh not again: and the driving *is* like the driving of Jehu the son of Nimshi; for he drives furiously.
- 2Ki 9:21 And Joram said, Make ready. And his chariot was made ready. And Joram king of Israel and Ahaziah king of Judah went out, each in his chariot, and they went out against Jehu, and met him in the portion of Naboth the Jezreelite.
- 2Ki 9:22 And it came to pass, when Joram saw Jehu, that he said, *Is it* peace, Jehu? And he answered, What peace, so long as the whoredoms of thy mother Jezebel and her witchcrafts *are so* many?
- 2Ki 9:23 And Joram turned his hands, and fled, and said to Ahaziah, *There is* treachery, O Ahaziah.
- 2Ki 9:24 And Jehu drew a bow with his full strength, and smote Jehoram between his arms, and the arrow went out at his heart, and he sunk down in his chariot.
- 2Ki 9:25 Then said *Jehu* to Bidkar his captain, Take up, *and* cast him in the portion of the field of Naboth the Jezreelite: for remember how that, when I and thou rode together after Ahab his father, the LORD laid this burden upon him;
- 2Ki 9:26 Surely I have seen yesterday the blood of Naboth, and the blood of his sons, saith the LORD; and I will requite thee in this plat, saith the LORD. Now therefore take *and* cast him into the plat *of ground*, according to the word of the LORD.
- 2Ki 9:27 But when Ahaziah the king of Judah saw *this*, he fled by the way of the garden house. And Jehu followed after him, and said, Smite him also in the chariot. *And they did so* at the going up to Gur, which *is* by Ibleam. And he fled to Megiddo, and died there.
- 2Ki 9:28 And his servants carried him in a chariot to Jerusalem, and buried him in his sepulchre with his fathers in the city of David.
- 2Ki 9:29 And in the eleventh year of Joram the son of Ahab began Ahaziah to reign over Judah.

Jehu Executes Jezebel

- 2Ki 9:30 And when Jehu was come to Jezreel, Jezebel heard *of it*; and she painted her face, and tired her head, and looked out at a window.
- 2Ki 9:31 And as Jehu entered in at the gate, she said, *Had* Zimri peace, who slew his master?
- 2Ki 9:32 And he lifted up his face to the window, and said, Who *is* on my side? who? And there looked out to him two *or* three eunuchs.
- 2Ki 9:33 And he said, Throw her down. So they threw her down: and *some* of her blood was sprinkled on the wall, and on the horses: and he trod her under foot.
- 2Ki 9:34 And when he was come in, he did eat and drink, and said, Go, see now this cursed *woman*, and bury her: for she *is* a king's daughter.
- 2Ki 9:35 And they went to bury her: but they found no more of her than the skull, and the feet, and the palms of *her* hands.
- 2Ki 9:36 Wherefore they came again, and told him. And he said, This *is* the word of the LORD, which he spake by his servant Elijah the Tishbite, saying, In the portion of Jezreel shall dogs eat the flesh of Jezebel:
- 2Ki 9:37 And the carcase of Jezebel shall be as dung upon the face of the field in the portion of Jezreel; *so* that they shall not say, This *is* Jezebel.

Tuesday – June 24th

1. What warnings are Christians given against the ‘once saved, always saved’ complacency?

- John 15:6 —
- Matthew 24:46-51 —
- Matthew 25:1-30 —

NOTE : ‘I feel it is probably better to keep the word “safe” for the end of the journey, when we finally get there, and to use “being saved” until we do. After all, the first name for the Christian religion was, appropriately, ‘the Way’ (Acts 18:25-26; Acts 19:9, 23). It is better to imagine salvation as a horizontal line along which one is travelling from the past (justified) to the future (glorified), rather than a vertical line one has crossed from the “unsaved” to the “saved.” Then “conversion” will be seen as a departure rather than an arrival.’ —*David Pawson, The Normal Christian Birth, page 301.*

The story is told of the bishop who was asked by a Salvation Army girl whether he was ‘saved.’ He replied, ‘Do you mean sotheis, sesosmenos or sozomenos?’ The bishop, who knew New Testament Greek, understood that the apostles wrote of salvation in the past, present and future. His reply in English meant: Do you mean: have I been saved? Am I being saved? Or Will I be saved?

‘By living faith, by earnest prayer to God, and depending upon Jesus’ merits, we are clothed with His righteousness, and we are saved. “Oh, yes,” some say, “we are saved in doing nothing. In fact, I am saved. I need not keep the law of God. I am saved by the righteousness of Jesus Christ.” Christ came to our world to bring all men back to allegiance to God. To take the position that you can break God’s law, for Christ has done it all, is a position of death, for you are as verily a transgressor as anyone.’ —*Faith & Works, page 71.*

2. What did Jesus say is essential for salvation?

- Matthew 24:12-13 —

NOTE : ‘What was the strength of those who in the past have suffered persecution for Christ’s sake? It was union with God, union with the Holy Spirit, union with Christ. It is this fellowship with the Saviour that will enable God’s people to endure to the end in the time of trial before us. All heaven is interested in our warfare with evil, and awaits our demand upon its power. Neither wicked men nor evil spirits can hinder the work of God, or shut out Christ’s presence from us if with contrite hearts we put away our sins, and in faith claim the Saviour’s promises. Every opposing influence, whether open or secret, may be successfully resisted, “not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.”’ —*Review & Herald, February 9, 1911.*

3. Heaven’s Hotline

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Last Day Events

Tuesday, September 24th, 2024

Last Day Events, Chapter 9, pp. 278

“The Close of Probation”

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“The Seven Last Plagues and the Wicked”

September 24th

God's Law Appears in the Sky

For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified.

Romans 2:13

There appears against the sky a hand holding two tables of stone folded together. Says the prophet, "*The heavens shall declare His righteousness: for God is judge Himself.*" [Psalm 50:6] That holy law, God's righteousness, that amid thunder and flame was proclaimed from Sinai as the guide of life, is now revealed to men as the rule of judgment. The hand opens the tables, and there are seen the precepts of the Decalogue, traced as with a pen of fire. The words are so plain that all can read them. Memory is aroused, the darkness of superstition and heresy is swept from every mind, and God's ten words, brief, comprehensive, and authoritative, are presented to the view of all the inhabitants of the earth.—*The Great Controversy*, p. 639 (1911).

Daily Scripture**Tuesday, September 24th, 2024****2nd Kings Chapter 10****Jehu Slaughters Ahab's Descendants**

- 2Ki 10:1 And Ahab had seventy sons in Samaria. And Jehu wrote letters, and sent to Samaria, unto the rulers of Jezreel, to the elders, and to them that brought up Ahab's *children*, saying,
- 2Ki 10:2 Now as soon as this letter cometh to you, seeing your master's sons *are* with you, and *there are* with you chariots and horses, a fenced city also, and armour;
- 2Ki 10:3 Look even out the best and meetest of your master's sons, and set *him* on his father's throne, and fight for your master's house.
- 2Ki 10:4 But they were exceedingly afraid, and said, Behold, two kings stood not before him: how then shall we stand?
- 2Ki 10:5 And he that *was* over the house, and he that *was* over the city, the elders also, and the bringers up of *the children*, sent to Jehu, saying, We *are* thy servants, and will do all that thou shalt bid us; we will not make any king: do thou *that which is* good in thine eyes.
- 2Ki 10:6 Then he wrote a letter the second time to them, saying, If ye *be* mine, and *if* ye will hearken unto my voice, take ye the heads of the men your master's sons, and come to me to Jezreel by tomorrow this time. Now the king's sons, *being* seventy persons, *were* with the great men of the city, which brought them up.
- 2Ki 10:7 And it came to pass, when the letter came to them, that they took the king's sons, and slew seventy persons, and put their heads in baskets, and sent him *them* to Jezreel.
- 2Ki 10:8 And there came a messenger, and told him, saying, They have brought the heads of the king's sons. And he said, Lay ye them in two heaps at the entering in of the gate until the morning.
- 2Ki 10:9 And it came to pass in the morning, that he went out, and stood, and said to all the people, Ye *be* righteous: behold, I conspired against my master, and slew him: but who slew all these?
- 2Ki 10:10 Know now that there shall fall unto the earth nothing of the word of the LORD, which the LORD spake concerning the house of Ahab: for the LORD hath done *that* which he spake by his servant Elijah.
- 2Ki 10:11 So Jehu slew all that remained of the house of Ahab in Jezreel, and all his great men, and his kinsfolks, and his priests, until he left him none remaining.
- 2Ki 10:12 And he arose and departed, and came to Samaria. *And* as he *was* at the shearing house in the way,
- 2Ki 10:13 Jehu met with the brethren of Ahaziah king of Judah, and said, Who *are* ye? And they answered, We *are* the brethren of Ahaziah; and we go down to salute the children of the king and the children of the queen.
- 2Ki 10:14 And he said, Take them alive. And they took them alive, and slew them at the pit of the shearing house, *even* two and forty men; neither left he any of them.
- 2Ki 10:15 And when he was departed thence, he lighted on Jehonadab the son of Rechab *coming* to meet him: and he saluted him, and said to him, Is thine heart right, as my heart *is* with thy heart? And Jehonadab answered, It is. If it be, give *me* thine hand. And he gave *him* his hand; and he took him up to him into the chariot.
- 2Ki 10:16 And he said, Come with me, and see my zeal for the LORD. So they made him ride in his chariot.
- 2Ki 10:17 And when he came to Samaria, he slew all that remained unto Ahab in Samaria, till he had destroyed him, according to the saying of the LORD, which he spoke to Elijah.

Jehu Strikes Down the Prophets of Baal

- 2Ki 10:18 And Jehu gathered all the people together, and said unto them, Ahab served Baal a little; *but* Jehu shall serve him much.

- 2Ki 10:19 Now therefore call unto me all the prophets of Baal, all his servants, and all his priests; let none be wanting: for I have a great sacrifice *to do* to Baal; whosoever shall be wanting, he shall not live. But Jehu did *it* in subtlety, to the intent that he might destroy the worshippers of Baal.
- 2Ki 10:20 And Jehu said, Proclaim a solemn assembly for Baal. And they proclaimed *it*.
- 2Ki 10:21 And Jehu sent through all Israel: and all the worshippers of Baal came, so that there was not a man left that came not. And they came into the house of Baal; and the house of Baal was full from one end to another.
- 2Ki 10:22 And he said unto him that *was* over the vestry, Bring forth vestments for all the worshippers of Baal. And he brought them forth vestments.
- 2Ki 10:23 And Jehu went, and Jehonadab the son of Rechab, into the house of Baal, and said unto the worshippers of Baal, Search, and look that there be here with you none of the servants of the LORD, but the worshippers of Baal only.
- 2Ki 10:24 And when they went in to offer sacrifices and burnt offerings, Jehu appointed fourscore men without, and said, *If* any of the men whom I have brought into your hands escape, *he that lets him go*, his life *shall be* for the life of him.
- 2Ki 10:25 And it came to pass, as soon as he had made an end of offering the burnt offering, that Jehu said to the guard and to the captains, Go in, *and* slay them; let none come forth. And they smote them with the edge of the sword; and the guard and the captains cast *them* out, and went to the city of the house of Baal.
- 2Ki 10:26 And they brought forth the images out of the house of Baal, and burned them.
- 2Ki 10:27 And they broke down the image of Baal, and brake down the house of Baal, and made it a draught house unto this day.

Jehu Reigns in Israel

- 2Ki 10:28 Thus Jehu destroyed Baal out of Israel.
- 2Ki 10:29 Howbeit *from* the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin, Jehu departed not from after them, *to wit*, the golden calves that *were* in Bethel, and that *were* in Dan.
- 2Ki 10:30 And the LORD said unto Jehu, Because thou hast done well in executing *that which is* right in mine eyes, *and* hast done unto the house of Ahab according to all that *was* in mine heart, thy children of the fourth *generation* shall sit on the throne of Israel.
- 2Ki 10:31 But Jehu took no heed to walk in the law of the LORD God of Israel with all his heart: for he departed not from the sins of Jeroboam, which made Israel to sin.
- 2Ki 10:32 In those days the LORD began to cut Israel short: and Hazael smote them in all the coasts of Israel;
- 2Ki 10:33 From Jordan eastward, all the land of Gilead, the Gadites, and the Reubenites, and the Manassites, from Aroer, which *is* by the river Arnon, even Gilead and Bashan.
- 2Ki 10:34 Now the rest of the acts of Jehu, and all that he did, and all his might, *are* they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?
- 2Ki 10:35 And Jehu slept with his fathers: and they buried him in Samaria. And Jehoahaz his son reigned in his stead.
- 2Ki 10:36 And the time that Jehu reigned over Israel in Samaria *was* twenty and eight years.

Wednesday – June 25th

1. What words of commendation will be heard by those who are faithful in their Christian walk?

➤ **Matthew 25:21** —

➤ **Matthew 25:23** —

NOTE : ‘It is the faithfulness, the loyalty to God, the loving service, that wins the divine approval. Every impulse of the Holy Spirit leading men to goodness and to God is noted in the books of heaven, and in the day of God the workers through whom He has wrought will be commended. They will enter into the joy of the Lord as they see in His kingdom those who have been redeemed through their instrumentality. And they are privileged to participate in His work there, because they have gained a fitness for it by participation in His work here. What we shall be in heaven is the reflection of what we are now in character and holy service. Christ said of Himself, “The Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister.” Matthew 20:28. This, His work on earth, is His work in heaven. And our reward for working with Christ in this world is the greater power and wider privilege of working with Him in the world to come.’ —*Christ’s Object Lessons, page 361.*

2. How does John describe the character of those who will see Jesus face to face?

➤ **1 John 3:2** —

NOTE : ‘The Lord will not compel men to deal justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with their God; He sets before the human agent good and evil, and makes plain what will be the sure result of following one course or the other. Christ invites us, saying, “Follow Me.” But we are never forced to walk in His footsteps. If we do walk in His footsteps, it is the result of deliberate choice. As we see the life and character of Christ, strong desire is awakened to be like Him in character; and we follow on to know the Lord, and to know His goings forth are prepared as the morning. We then begin to realise that “the path of the just is as the shining light, that shines more and more unto the perfect day.”’ —*Review & Herald, March 31, 1896.*

3. Heaven’s Hotline

➤

Last Day Events***Wednesday, September 25th, 2024******Last Day Events, Chapter 9, pp. 279*****“The Close of Probation”****--****“The Seven Last Plagues and the Wicked”****September 25th****The Lost Condemn Their False Shepherds**

But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

2 Peter 2:1

Church members who have seen the light and been convicted, but who have trusted the salvation of their souls to the minister, will learn in the day of God that no other soul can pay the ransom for their transgression. A terrible cry will be raised, "I am lost, eternally lost." Men will feel as though they could rend in pieces the ministers who have preached falsehoods and condemned the truth.—*SDA Bible Commentary, Vol. 4, p. 1157 (1900).*

All unite in heaping their bitterest condemnation upon the ministers. Unfaithful pastors have prophesied smooth things; they have led their hearers to make void the law of God and to persecute those who would keep it holy. Now, in their despair, these teachers confess before the world their work of deception. The multitudes are filled with fury. "We are lost!" they cry, "and you are the cause of our ruin"; and they turn upon the false shepherds. The very ones that once admired them most, will pronounce the most dreadful curses upon them. The very hands that once crowned them with laurels, will be raised for their destruction. The swords which were to slay God's people, are now employed to destroy their enemies.—*The Great Controversy, p. 655, 656 (1911).*

Here we see that the church--the Lord's sanctuary--was the first to feel the stroke of the wrath of God. The ancient men [Ezekiel 9:6], those to whom God had given great light and who had stood as guardians of the spiritual interests of the people, had betrayed their trust.—*Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 5, p. 211 (1882).*

God's Word is made of none effect by false shepherds. . . . Their work will soon react upon themselves. Then will be witnessed the scenes described in Revelation 18 when the judgments of God shall fall upon mystical Babylon.—*Manuscript 60, 1900.*

Daily Scripture**Wednesday, September 25th, 2024****2nd Kings Chapter 11****Athaliah Reigns in Judah**

- 2Ki 11:1 And when Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed all the seed royal.
- 2Ki 11:2 But Jehosheba, the daughter of king Joram, sister of Ahaziah, took Joash the son of Ahaziah, and stole him from among the king's sons *which were* slain; and they hid him, *even* him and his nurse, in the bedchamber from Athaliah, so that he was not slain.
- 2Ki 11:3 And he was with her hid in the house of the LORD six years. And Athaliah did reign over the land.

Joash Anointed King in Judah

- 2Ki 11:4 And the seventh year Jehoiada sent and fetched the rulers over hundreds, with the captains and the guard, and brought them to him into the house of the LORD, and made a covenant with them, and took an oath of them in the house of the LORD, and shewed them the king's son.
- 2Ki 11:5 And he commanded them, saying, This *is* the thing that ye shall do; A third part of you that enter in on the sabbath shall even be keepers of the watch of the king's house;
- 2Ki 11:6 And a third part *shall be* at the gate of Sur; and a third part at the gate behind the guard: so shall ye keep the watch of the house, that it be not broken down.
- 2Ki 11:7 And two parts of all you that go forth on the sabbath, even they shall keep the watch of the house of the LORD about the king.
- 2Ki 11:8 And ye shall compass the king round about, every man with his weapons in his hand: and he that cometh within the ranges, let him be slain: and be ye with the king as he goeth out and as he cometh in.
- 2Ki 11:9 And the captains over the hundreds did according to all *things* that Jehoiada the priest commanded: and they took every man his men that were to come in on the sabbath, with them that should go out on the sabbath, and came to Jehoiada the priest.
- 2Ki 11:10 And to the captains over hundreds did the priest give king David's spears and shields, that *were* in the temple of the LORD.
- 2Ki 11:11 And the guard stood, every man with his weapons in his hand, round about the king, from the right corner of the temple to the left corner of the temple, *along* by the altar and the temple.
- 2Ki 11:12 And he brought forth the king's son, and put the crown upon him, and *gave him* the testimony; and they made him king, and anointed him; and they clapped their hands, and said, God save the king.
- 2Ki 11:13 And when Athaliah heard the noise of the guard *and* of the people, she came to the people into the temple of the LORD.
- 2Ki 11:14 And when she looked, behold, the king stood by a pillar, as the manner *was*, and the princes and the trumpeters by the king, and all the people of the land rejoiced, and blew with trumpets: and Athaliah rent her clothes, and cried, Treason, Treason.
- 2Ki 11:15 But Jehoiada the priest commanded the captains of the hundreds, the officers of the host, and said unto them, Have her forth without the ranges: and him that follows her kill with the sword. For the priest had said, Let her not be slain in the house of the LORD.
- 2Ki 11:16 And they laid hands on her; and she went by the way by the which the horses came into the king's house: and there was she slain.
- 2Ki 11:17 And Jehoiada made a covenant between the LORD and the king and the people, that they should be the LORD'S people; between the king also and the people.
- 2Ki 11:18 And all the people of the land went into the house of Baal, and broke it down; his altars and his images brake they in pieces thoroughly, and slew Mattan the priest of Baal before the altars. And the priest appointed officers over the house of the LORD.

- 2Ki 11:19 And he took the rulers over hundreds, and the captains, and the guard, and all the people of the land; and they brought down the king from the house of the LORD, and came by the way of the gate of the guard to the king's house. And he sat on the throne of the kings.
- 2Ki 11:20 And all the people of the land rejoiced, and the city was in quiet: and they slew Athaliah with the sword *beside* the king's house.

Jehoash Reigns in Judah

- 2Ki 11:21 Seven years old *was* Jehoash when he began to reign.

*Thursday – June 26th***1. What assurance may each faithful servant of God trust in?**

➤ **Ruth 2:12** —

NOTE : ‘However short our service or humble our work, if in simple faith we follow Christ, we shall not be disappointed of the reward. That which even the greatest and wisest cannot earn, the weakest and most humble may receive. Heaven’s golden gate opens not to the self-exalted. It is not lifted up to the proud in spirit. But the everlasting portals will open wide to the trembling touch of a little child. Blessed will be the recompense of grace to those who have wrought for God in the simplicity of faith and love.’ — Christ’s Object Lessons, page 404.

2. Heaven’s Hotline

➤

Last Day Events***Thursday, September 26th, 2024******Last Day Events, Chapter 9, pp. 280*****“The Close of Probation”****--****“The Seven Last Plagues and the Wicked”****September 26th****The Sixth Plague**

And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared.

Revelation 16:12

The spirits of devils will go forth to the kings of the earth and to the whole world, to fasten them in deception, and urge them on to unite with Satan in his last struggle against the government of heaven.—*The Great Controversy*, p. 624 (1911).

The Spirit of God is gradually withdrawing from the world. Satan is also mustering his forces of evil, going forth "*unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world*," to gather them under his banner, to be trained for "*the battle of that great day of God Almighty*." [Revelation 16:14].—*SDA Bible Commentary*, Vol. 7, p. 983 (1890).

After John's description in Revelation 16 of that miracle-working power which was to gather the world to the last great conflict, the symbols are dropped and the trumpet voice once more gives a certain sound: "*Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame*." [Revelation 16:15] After the transgression of Adam and Eve they were naked, for the garment of light and security had departed from them.

The world will have forgotten the admonition and warnings of God as did the inhabitants of the Noatic world, as did also the dwellers in Sodom. They awoke with all their plans and inventions of iniquity, but suddenly the shower of fire came from heaven and consumed the godless inhabitants. "Thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed" [Luke 17:30].—*Manuscript Releases*, Vol. 14, p. 96, 97 (1896).

Daily Scripture**Thursday, September 26th, 2024****2nd Kings Chapter 12**

- 2Ki 12:1 In the seventh year of Jehu Jehoash began to reign; and forty years reigned he in Jerusalem. And his mother's name *was* Zibiah of Beersheba.
- 2Ki 12:2 And Jehoash did *that which was* right in the sight of the LORD all his days wherein Jehoiada the priest instructed him.
- 2Ki 12:3 But the high places were not taken away: the people still sacrificed and burnt incense in the high places.

Jehoash Repairs the Temple

- 2Ki 12:4 And Jehoash said to the priests, All the money of the dedicated things that is brought into the house of the LORD, *even* the money of every one that passeth *the account*, the money that every man is set at, *and* all the money that cometh into any man's heart to bring into the house of the LORD,
- 2Ki 12:5 Let the priests take *it* to them, every man of his acquaintance: and let them repair the breaches of the house, wheresoever any breach shall be found.
- 2Ki 12:6 But it was *so, that* in the three and twentieth year of king Jehoash the priests had not repaired the breaches of the house.
- 2Ki 12:7 Then king Jehoash called for Jehoiada the priest, and the *other* priests, and said unto them, Why repair ye not the breaches of the house? now therefore receive no *more* money of your acquaintance, but deliver it for the breaches of the house.
- 2Ki 12:8 And the priests consented to receive no *more* money of the people, neither to repair the breaches of the house.
- 2Ki 12:9 But Jehoiada the priest took a chest, and bored a hole in the lid of it, and set it beside the altar, on the right side as one cometh into the house of the LORD: and the priests that kept the door put therein all the money *that was* brought into the house of the LORD.
- 2Ki 12:10 And it was *so*, when they saw that *there was* much money in the chest, that the king's scribe and the high priest came up, and they put up in bags, and told the money that was found in the house of the LORD.
- 2Ki 12:11 And they gave the money, being told, into the hands of them that did the work, that had the oversight of the house of the LORD: and they laid it out to the carpenters and builders, that wrought upon the house of the LORD,
- 2Ki 12:12 And to masons, and hewers of stone, and to buy timber and hewed stone to repair the breaches of the house of the LORD, and for all that was laid out for the house to repair *it*.
- 2Ki 12:13 Howbeit there were not made for the house of the LORD bowls of silver, snuffers, basons, trumpets, any vessels of gold, or vessels of silver, of the money *that was* brought into the house of the LORD:
- 2Ki 12:14 But they gave that to the workmen, and repaired therewith the house of the LORD.
- 2Ki 12:15 Moreover they reckoned not with the men, into whose hand they delivered the money to be bestowed on workmen: for they dealt faithfully.
- 2Ki 12:16 The trespass money and sin money was not brought into the house of the LORD: it was the priests'.
- 2Ki 12:17 Then Hazael king of Syria went up, and fought against Gath, and took it: and Hazael set his face to go up to Jerusalem.
- 2Ki 12:18 And Jehoash king of Judah took all the hallowed things that Jehoshaphat, and Jehoram, and Ahaziah, his fathers, kings of Judah, had dedicated, and his own hallowed things, and all the gold *that was* found in the treasures of the house of the LORD, and in the king's house, and sent *it* to Hazael king of Syria: and he went away from Jerusalem.

The Death of Joash

- 2Ki 12:19 And the rest of the acts of Joash, and all that he did, *are* they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?
- 2Ki 12:20 And his servants arose, and made a conspiracy, and slew Joash in the house of Millo, which goeth down to Silla.
- 2Ki 12:21 For Jozachar the son of Shimeath, and Jehozabad the son of Shomer, his servants, smote him, and he died; and they buried him with his fathers in the city of David: and Amaziah his son reigned in his stead.

*Preparation Day – June 27th***1. What glimpses are we given of the reward that awaits those who have been faithful?****➤ Revelation 21:1-5 —**

NOTE : ‘I want to tell you that heaven is worth winning. It should be the aim of your life to fit yourself for association with the redeemed, with holy angels, and with Jesus, the world’s Redeemer. If we could have but one view of the celestial city, we would never wish to dwell on earth again. There are beautiful landscapes on earth, and I enjoy all these prospects of loveliness in nature. I associate them with the Creator. But I know that if I love God, and keep His commandments, there is a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory reserved in heaven for me. There, when the veil that darkens our vision shall be removed, and our eyes shall behold that world of beauty of which we now catch glimpses through the microscope; when we look on the glories of the heavens, now scanned afar through the telescope; when, the blight of sin removed, the whole earth shall appear in “the beauty of the Lord our God,” what a field will be open to our study! There the student of science may read the records of creation and discern no reminders of the law of evil. He may listen to the music of nature’s voices and detect no note of wailing or undertone of sorrow. In all created things he may trace one handwriting, in the vast universe behold “God’s name writ large,” and not in earth or sea or sky one sign of ill remaining. Let your imagination picture the home of the saved, and remember that it will be more glorious than your brightest imagination can portray. In the varied gifts of God in nature we see but the faintest gleaming of His glory. Human language is inadequate to describe the reward of the righteous. It will be known only to those who behold it. No finite mind can comprehend the glory of the Paradise of God.’ —*The Faith I Live By*, page 364.

2. Heaven’s Hotline

Last Day Events***Preparation Day, September 27th, 2024******Last Day Events, Chapter 9, pp. 281*****“The Close of Probation”****--****“The Seven Last Plagues and the Wicked”****September 27th****The Last Great Battle Between Good and Evil****And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.****Revelation 16:16**

Two great opposing powers are revealed in the last great battle. On one side stands the Creator of heaven and earth. All on His side bear His signet. They are obedient to His commands. On the other side stands the prince of darkness, with those who have chosen apostasy and rebellion.—*SDA Bible Commentary, Vol. 7, p. 982, 983 (1901).*

A terrible conflict is before us. We are nearing the battle of the great day of God Almighty. That which has been held in control is to be let loose. The angel of mercy is folding her wings, preparing to step down from the throne and leave the world to the control of Satan. The principalities and powers of earth are in bitter revolt against the God of heaven. They are filled with hatred against those who serve Him, and soon, very soon, will be fought the last great battle between good and evil. The earth is to be the battle field--the scene of the final contest and the final victory. Here, where for so long Satan has led men against God, rebellion is to be forever suppressed.—*The Adventist Review and Herald, May 13, 1902.*

The battles waging between the two armies are as real as those fought by the armies of this world, and on the issue of the spiritual conflict eternal destinies depend.—*Prophets and Kings, p. 176 (c. 1914).*

Daily Scripture**Preparation Day, September 27th, 2024****2nd Kings Chapter 13****Jehoahaz Reigns in Israel**

- 2Ki 13:1 In the three and twentieth year of Joash the son of Ahaziah king of Judah Jehoahaz the son of Jehu began to reign over Israel in Samaria, *and reigned* seventeen years.
- 2Ki 13:2 And he did *that which was* evil in the sight of the LORD, and followed the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which made Israel to sin; he departed not therefrom.
- 2Ki 13:3 And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, and he delivered them into the hand of Hazael king of Syria, and into the hand of Benhadad the son of Hazael, all *their* days.
- 2Ki 13:4 And Jehoahaz besought the LORD, and the LORD hearkened unto him: for he saw the oppression of Israel, because the king of Syria oppressed them.
- 2Ki 13:5 (And the LORD gave Israel a saviour, so that they went out from under the hand of the Syrians: and the children of Israel dwelt in their tents, as beforetime.)
- 2Ki 13:6 Nevertheless they departed not from the sins of the house of Jeroboam, who made Israel sin, *but* walked therein: and there remained the grove also in Samaria.)
- 2Ki 13:7 Neither did he leave of the people to Jehoahaz but fifty horsemen, and ten chariots, and ten thousand footmen; for the king of Syria had destroyed them, and had made them like the dust by threshing.
- 2Ki 13:8 Now the rest of the acts of Jehoahaz, and all that he did, and his might, *are* they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?
- 2Ki 13:9 And Jehoahaz slept with his fathers; and they buried him in Samaria: and Joash his son reigned in his stead.

Jehoash Reigns in Israel

- 2Ki 13:10 In the thirty and seventh year of Joash king of Judah began Jehoash the son of Jehoahaz to reign over Israel in Samaria, *and reigned* sixteen years.
- 2Ki 13:11 And he did *that which was* evil in the sight of the LORD; he departed not from all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel sin: *but* he walked therein.
- 2Ki 13:12 And the rest of the acts of Joash, and all that he did, and his might wherewith he fought against Amaziah king of Judah, *are* they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?
- 2Ki 13:13 And Joash slept with his fathers; and Jeroboam sat upon his throne: and Joash was buried in Samaria with the kings of Israel.

The Death of Elisha

- 2Ki 13:14 Now Elisha was fallen sick of his sickness whereof he died. And Joash the king of Israel came down unto him, and wept over his face, and said, O my father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof.
- 2Ki 13:15 And Elisha said unto him, Take bow and arrows. And he took unto him bow and arrows.
- 2Ki 13:16 And he said to the king of Israel, Put thine hand upon the bow. And he put his hand *upon it*: and Elisha put his hands upon the king's hands.
- 2Ki 13:17 And he said, Open the window eastward. And he opened *it*. Then Elisha said, Shoot. And he shot. And he said, The arrow of the LORD'S deliverance, and the arrow of deliverance from Syria: for thou shalt smite the Syrians in Aphek, till thou have consumed *them*.
- 2Ki 13:18 And he said, Take the arrows. And he took *them*. And he said unto the king of Israel, Smite upon the ground. And he smote thrice, and stayed.
- 2Ki 13:19 And the man of God was wroth with him, and said, Thou should have smitten five or six times; then had thou smitten Syria till thou had consumed *it*: whereas now thou shalt smite Syria *but* thrice.
- 2Ki 13:20 And Elisha died, and they buried him. And the bands of the Moabites invaded the land at the coming in of the year.

- 2Ki 13:21 And it came to pass, as they were burying a man, that, behold, they spied a band *of men*; and they cast the man into the sepulchre of Elisha: and when the man was let down, and touched the bones of Elisha, he revived, and stood up on his feet.
- 2Ki 13:22 But Hazael king of Syria oppressed Israel all the days of Jehoahaz.
- 2Ki 13:23 And the LORD was gracious unto them, and had compassion on them, and had respect unto them, because of his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and would not destroy them, neither cast he them from his presence as yet.
- 2Ki 13:24 So Hazael king of Syria died; and Benhadad his son reigned in his stead.
- 2Ki 13:25 And Jehoash the son of Jehoahaz took again out of the hand of Benhadad the son of Hazael the cities, which he had taken out of the hand of Jehoahaz his father by war. Three times did Joash beat him, and recovered the cities of Israel.

Adult Mission Story**Preparation Day, September 27th, 2024**

Erickson has a story that few people have heard. He told part of the story to his mother. He told the whole story to his wife. His three young daughters have never heard the story. His late father never heard the story. Erickson, who is a pastor and Seventh-day Adventist leader in Costa Rica, has been reluctant to share his story over fears that people wouldn't believe him. But after hearing a number of incredible testimonies as he helped Adventist Mission collect stories for this Mission quarterly in Costa Rica, he told his story to Adventist Mission. So, this Sabbath, you will be among the first to hear his whole story. The story changed his life. The story caused him to become a Seventh-day Adventist.

There were only two schools in the town where Erickson grew up in Guatemala: a public school and an Adventist school.

Father sent Erickson to public school for first grade, but the boy didn't see his teacher for the entire year. The teacher was in training, the school principal explained. The principal sometimes came to the first-grade classroom to hand out assignments. But no one taught reading, math, or spelling to the children that year. Fortunately, Erickson had learned those subjects in kindergarten, so he was able to complete the occasional homework assignments. But many of his classmates failed first grade.

Father was disgusted with the public school system after that year, and he moved his son to the Adventist school for second grade. That was where he learned about God.

Before going to sleep at night, Erickson knelt beside his bed to pray.

"God, help me to make good decisions in my life," he prayed. "Help me in school. Help my family and especially my father."

The family was poor. Father worked as a bus driver far from home, and Erickson only saw him a few times every year. Despite their poverty, Father always managed to find funds to pay for Erickson's education at the Adventist school.

As Erickson prayed at night, he wished that he could see Father more often.

"Protect the bus and Mother so she can earn some money for our needs," he prayed. "Amen."

One night, when Erickson was 11 or 12, he prayed and then stretched out on his bed in the dark room. His eyes were open, but he couldn't see anything in the dark.

Suddenly, a bright but soft light appeared on the ceiling above his head. It was not the light bulb; Erickson had turned it off before praying. The light lit the room. Erickson wasn't scared. He felt peaceful and relaxed.

Suddenly, a glowing being darted from the light to the floor. Erickson saw arms, legs, a body, and a head. But he couldn't see eyes, ears, a nose, a mouth, or any other facial features. The head was surrounded by a soft glow. The being knelt in the same place where the boy had just prayed beside the bed. He put his hands together and bowed his head.

Erickson watched, wondering what would happen next.

Erickson's prayers usually lasted five or 10 minutes, but this prayer ended much more quickly. The being prayed for 60 to 90 seconds. Then he stood up and put one hand on Erickson's head and the other on his chest. Joy filled Erickson's heart. He imagined that he was seeing Jesus.

The being didn't say anything. After touching the boy's head and chest for a few seconds, he rose back up to the soft light, still shining on the ceiling. Then the light went out, and the bedroom plunged back into darkness.

Peace and calm flooded over Erickson. He sensed only goodness in the room. He quickly fell asleep.

The next day, Erickson told Mother about the experience. He felt closer to Jesus than ever before.

But that wasn't the end of the story.

Several months later, Erickson had a dream about the Sabbath. He had attended a church on Sunday since he was a small child, and he continued to go to make his father happy. But after he had enrolled in the Adventist school, he also had started to go to the Adventist church on Sabbath.

In the dream, Erickson was standing in his father's church during a worship service. Suddenly, statues of saints that lined the walls of the church began to move. Their arms moved, and their legs moved. Laughing, they chased the terrified boy around the church. Erickson could see other worshippers in the church, but they acted like nothing was out of the normal.

By Andrew McChesney

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