



**Earliteen Sabbath
School Lessons**

First Year, Third Quarter

**PREPARING FOR
CHRIST'S RETURN**

EARLITEEN

SABBATH SCHOOL LESSONS

FIRST YEAR, THIRD QUARTER

PREPARING FOR
CHRIST'S RETURN

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9999 East Mississippi Avenue

Denver, CO 80247

info@sda1888.org / www.sda1888.org

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INTRODUCTION

All through the ages since sin entered the beautiful world that God created, the first coming of the Messiah to earth and His return as King of kings and Lord of lords has inspired and impelled God's people to devote their lives to Him. Wickedness has increased all over the world and is reaching the level that caused the destruction of all life in the time of Noah. "As it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man." Luke 17:26.

Like Abraham, who "looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God" (Hebrews 11:10), people today plead with God to send His Son to finish the work that Heaven began to restore the world to its original condition.

Meanwhile, He has given the holy Scriptures to provide everything necessary for one to be ready to enter His holy kingdom and inhabit the new earth. The opportunity to know about God's plans and to prepare to greet Jesus with joy at His second coming is both precious and valuable. These Sabbath School Lessons are for personal learning as well as for sharing with others about the greatest of all events that will take place soon.

1

Signs of Jesus' Second Coming

MEMORY VERSE: "And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you." Matthew 24:4.

1. Why did the disciples want to show Jesus the temple, as told about in Matthew 24:1?

As the Jews stated in John 2:20, the temple had been in the building process for 46 years. In fact, the entire complex of courts and beautiful buildings surrounding the temple was finally completed in about A.D. 63, only seven years before they were destroyed by the Romans.

2. Jesus turned the attention of His disciples to the future. What did He tell them about the temple? Matthew 24:2.
3. When these disciples (Peter, James, John, and Andrew, according to Mark 13:3) were alone with Jesus on the Mount of Olives, what three questions did they ask Him? Matthew 24:3.
4. What is deception? Why did Jesus warn the disciples to beware of it? Matthew 24:4.
5. According to Matthew 24:5, there was a danger of men rising up and claiming to be the Messiah. How is it possible to tell that which is true from that which is false?

6. Wars and rumors of wars are constantly increasing. Should we be afraid that these things will bring the end of the world? Matthew 24:6.

7. In Matthew 24:7 is a list of events that will take place before the end of this world. For each type of event shown below, write down where something similar has occurred recently.
 - a. Nation shall rise against nation
 - b. Kingdom against kingdom
 - c. Famine
 - d. Pestilence (or plague)
 - e. Earthquake

8. Will such things be the end of hardships? Matthew 24:8.



Think it through

1. Are there people today who come in the name of Jesus and yet deceive many?

2. Is it possible for us today, like the disciples, to be fascinated by the things of this world and forget about eternal values? To what does Jesus want us to direct our attention?

3. In the first eight verses of Matthew 24, what impressed you the most as you compare the prophecies with the conditions in the world today?

2

Endurance

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

1. The end will come! What did Matthew write about the things that will happen right before the end of the world? Matthew 24:14.

“And this _____
shall be preached in _____
for a _____ unto all nations; and then shall the end
come.”

2. In vision, Daniel foresaw the destruction of Jerusalem. Jesus told the disciples that when they saw the abomination of desolation standing in the Holy Place, they were to flee the city. Read Matthew 24:15-18 and list the three ways of escape that Jesus gave.

a.

b.

c.

Discuss in class why you think Jesus mentioned these particular escape routes and why they would be successful.

“When the idolatrous standards of the Romans should be set up in the holy ground, which extended some furlongs outside the city walls, then the followers of Christ were to find safety in flight. When the warning sign should be seen, those who would escape must make no delay.” *–The Great Controversy*, p. 26.

3. Jesus felt sorry for those who would be having babies soon, as well as for those who would have to care for babies when had to escape. Why do you think Jesus especially mentioned mothers and children in Matthew 24:19?

4. Jesus said that Christians should pray for two things concerning their flight from Jerusalem. What were they, and why were the believers to pray about them? Matthew 24:20.
 - a.

 - b.

5. According to Matthew 24:21, what was going to come?

6. Why would the days be shortened? Matthew 24:22.

“When Jesus revealed to His disciples the fate of Jerusalem and the scenes of the second advent, He foretold also the experience of His people from the time when He should be taken from them, to His return in power and glory for their deliverance.” –*The Great Controversy*, p. 39.

7. Find and list at least three times since Jesus ascended to heaven when persecution was strong against God’s people.
 - a.

 - b.

 - c.

8. Why do you think there is not more persecution of Christians in America today?

"The religion which is current in our day is not of the pure and holy character that marked the Christian faith in the days of Christ and His apostles. It is only because of the spirit of compromise with sin, because the great truths of the word of God are so indifferently regarded, because there is so little vital godliness in the church, that Christianity is apparently so popular with the world. Let there be a revival of the faith and power of the early church, and the spirit of persecution will be revived, and the fires of persecution will be rekindled." –*The Great Controversy*, p. 48.

Give your ideas in class

1. What is the gospel of the kingdom, and why does it have to be preached to everyone before the end?
2. Do you think true faith in God is popular with the ideas of the world? Why, or why not?
3. Where in the world are Christians persecuted today?
4. Do you think persecution will come to America?
5. In line with the memory verse, describe what endurance means and why it is necessary for salvation.



Deceptions

MEMORY VERSE: "Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not." Matthew 24:23.

1. Jesus wanted the disciples to beware of two things. What were they?

_____ and _____
 _____. They would show two very real things. What were they? _____ and _____. According to Jesus, would the elect of God be deceived by these things? Matthew 24:24.

2. There are many people in the world today who like to see the things that Jesus warned about in question 1. Do they have any excuse for being deceived, according to Jesus' words in Matthew 24:25?
3. In Matthew 24:26, Jesus said that people will preach that Jesus is in the desert. What does this mean? Who are such people?
4. Also, some people may say that Jesus is in the secret chambers. What does that mean?

Jesus said that if someone tells you to go and see Him in the desert, not to go. And if anyone says He is in the secret chambers, do not go to see. He said, "Believe it not."

5. According to Jesus' own words, what will His coming be like? Matthew 24:27.

6. Who on earth will see Him when He comes? Revelation 1:7.

7. In Matthew 24:28, Jesus taught His hearers to wait until they see Him come in the clouds and not to go after things that are not true, even if the whole world goes out to see Satan’s wonders. It is very important that God’s people obey His instructions. When the deceptions become very strong, how will you remember what Jesus said about His second coming?

8. How can a person know if what Jesus taught is correct? John 17:17.

Remember that what Jesus said is to be our guide. If anyone attempts to guide you away from God’s word, do not follow him, for if you do, deception will surely overtake you.

What do you think?

1. Does everyone need to study his or her Bible? Why, or why not?

2. Today there are so-called “faith healers” and Christians who believe that such “healers” are from God. Jesus warned that great signs and wonders would be done by Satan. How can you determine whether such things are from God or not? Give a Bible text to support your answer, and discuss this in class.



3. Read *The Great Controversy*, pp. 624, 625 (first paragraph) to find the answers to the following questions:
- a. Why is Christ going to come again?
 - b. Is He coming to work miracles and prove that He is the Messiah?
 - c. Will He touch the earth when He comes?
 - d. Can Satan raise the dead to life?
 - e. Can Satan impersonate dead friends or relatives?
 - f. Does Satan have glorious brightness and power?

Jesus said, "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation."
Matthew 26:41.



4

Signs in the Heavens

MEMORY VERSE: *“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My words shall not pass away.” Matthew 24:35.*

1. According to Matthew 24:29, where did Jesus tell the believers to look for the signs of His coming? List the four signs given in this verse.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
2. After these things happen, what will be next? Matthew 24:30.
3. What part will the angels play in at Jesus’ second coming? Matthew 24:31.
4. In speaking of fig trees, what did Jesus say is a sign that the summer season is near? Matthew 24:32. What season comes after summer? Why are such signs important for farmers, as well as for us in a spiritual sense?
5. When all these things begin to come to pass, what is near? Matthew 24:33, 34.

6. What did Jesus say about the words He spoke? Matthew 24:35.
7. Even though He gave these prophecies almost 2,000 years ago, how do they still apply to the world today? 2 Peter 1:19.

What do you think?

1. Discuss in class what it would have been like to live during the times about which Jesus spoke in Matthew 24:15-22, 29. Would you, as did many others, have thought that the end of the world had come?
2. Should a person be afraid when he hears about and sees the signs of Jesus' coming? Why, or why not?
3. We are told to look to the heavens and see the signs. Name some other signs showing that Jesus' coming will be soon. Tell about them.



Prepare for His Coming!

MEMORY VERSE: *“Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.” Matthew 24:42.*

1. How many people today know the day and hour of Jesus’ coming? Matthew 24:36. Do the angels know? Who knows?
2. What did Jesus say the last days will be like? What were people doing before the world’s destruction by the Flood? How did those days compare to what we see in the world today? Matthew 24:37-39.
3. Write down the four main things told about in Matthew 24:38 that people would be doing just before Jesus’ coming. Explain why you think He said such things are evil.
4. According to Matthew 24:40, 41, some people will be left behind when He comes. Jesus was still talking about the flood of Noah’s days. What people were taken away in the flood? Who remained safe?

We do not know the day or the hour of Jesus’ return; but after studying the Scriptures, it would be impossible to say that He will come silently without anyone knowing about it and then just make people disappear. This is a popular teaching in the religious world today, but it is a deception.

5. What did Jesus tell the disciples to do? Why? Matthew 24:42.
6. In Matthew 24:43, 44, He told them to be ready. Why did He say this, and what does it mean?

7. What did two different servants do in Jesus' explanation in Matthew 24:45-51?
8. What will happen to each of them when the Lord comes?
9. What kind of servant do you want to be?

What have you learned?

1. What would you say to someone who told you that he knows the exact date when Jesus is going to come? Could you give him an answer from the Bible? Where is it found, and what does it say?
2. What do you think a person can do to watch and be ready for the Saviour's coming? How can he prepare for that day?
3. How can you tell your friends that Jesus is coming soon? Do you think the whole world will be converted and find salvation? Why, or why not? See Matthew 24:37-39.



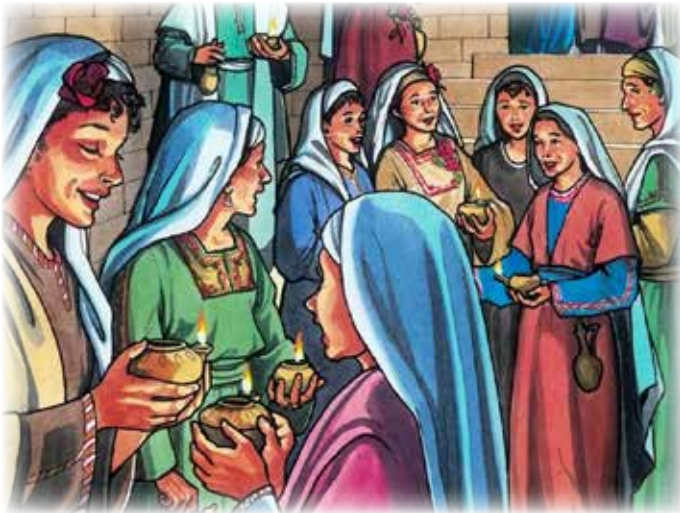
A Parable for the Last Days

MEMORY VERSE: *"Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to Him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and His wife hath made herself ready." Revelation 19:7.*

1. To what did Jesus compare the kingdom of heaven? Matthew 25:1.
2. How many were wise, and how many were foolish? Matthew 25:2.
3. Why were the five considered wise? Matthew 25:3.
4. Why were the others called foolish? Matthew 24:4.
5. When Jesus spoke about the virgins, to whom was He referring? Ephesians 5:32.
6. What is important about the lamps and the oil? What do they symbolize? Psalm 119:105; Zechariah 4:2-6.
7. The foolish virgins were together with those who were wise, but they lacked oil (the enlightenment of God's Spirit). What words of the apostle Paul to Timothy reveal the failures of the foolish virgins? 2 Timothy 3:5.

What have you learned?

1. Remember that all of the virgins were waiting for the bridegroom. But without oil in their lamps at night, how far do you think they would be able to go before getting lost?
2. Spiritually speaking, how far can a Christian go in the darkness of this world without having the light of God's Spirit and His Holy word?
3. Why do you think five of the virgins did not bring extra oil?
4. What reasons might people have for not having a living connection with God through His Spirit?



7

Who Will Enter the Kingdom?

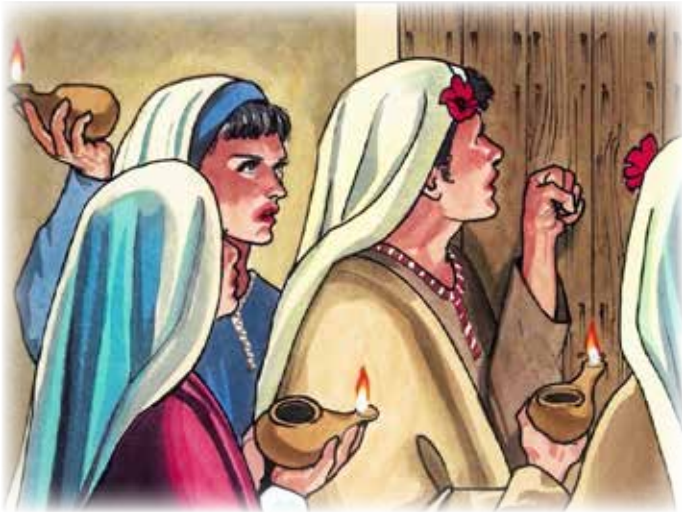
MEMORY VERSE: *“And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.” Romans 13:11.*

The virgins in Matthew 25 symbolize God’s church on earth at the end of time. Christ is symbolized by the bridegroom.

1. While the bridegroom tarried, what did all of the virgins do? Matthew 25:5.
2. At what hour did the bridegroom come, according to the parable. What call was heard? Matthew 25:6.
3. What did the virgins have to do next? Matthew 25:7-9.
4. What happened while the foolish virgins went to buy oil at that late hour? Matthew 25:10.
5. When the foolish virgins at last came to the marriage and asked to be let in, what did the bridegroom say to them? Matthew 25:11, 12.
6. Who will enter the kingdom of heaven? Matthew 7:21.
7. What counsel is important today, as the end draws nearer? Matthew 24:44; 25:13.

Tell your thoughts

1. What is most needed by God's children at the end of time?
2. Do you want to be ready when Jesus comes to take His bride (the church—His people) home?
3. How does Jesus want His people to prepare so that they are not found outside the wedding when the door is closed forever?



Talents for an Eternal Purpose

MEMORY VERSE: "After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them." Matthew 25:19.

1. In Matthew 25:14, with what did Jesus compare the heavenly kingdom?
2. What was each of the three servants entrusted with? Matthew 25:15.
3. What did the master do after that? Matthew 25:15.
4. What did the man with five talents do with them? Matthew 25:16.
5. What did the man who had two talents do with them? Matthew 25:17.
6. What did the man who had one talent do with it? Matthew 25:18.
7. When the master returned and called his servants to give an account of their talents, what did he say to the wise and faithful ones? Matthew 25:19-23.

What have you learned?

1. What do you think Jesus meant when He said, “The kingdom of heaven is as” a man traveling into a far country? Explain what this refers to. See also *The Great Controversy*, p. 347.
2. Think of the master in this parable as Jesus; and, one of the servants as yourself. How many talents has He given you?
3. How can you make the best use of your talents for God’s kingdom? Explain and discuss this in class.



The Buried Talent

MEMORY VERSE: *“Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.” 1 Corinthians 10:31.*

1. What did the servant who had been entrusted with one talent say to his lord on the day when he had to explain what he had done with his entrusted talent? Matthew 25:24. How did he view his master?
2. Why did say that he buried his talent? What did he give the master? Matthew 25:25.
3. What did the lord say to this servant? Matthew 25:26, 27.
4. Since the man did nothing with his talent, what did the lord do with it? Matthew 25:28.
5. What will be given to those who carry out their responsibilities for God in the best way possible? Matthew 25:29, first part.
6. What will happen to the talent of anyone who does not use it? Matthew 25:29, last part.
7. What sorrowful end will result if one does not use his talent for the Master? Matthew 25:30.

Discuss the questions

1. Everyone has at least one talent. Actually every person has many. What will result when every talent is used to bless and honor the One who gave it, and what will happen if it is not?
2. Was the servant's view of his lord correct? Is the Master hard and unfair? John 3:16; 1 John 3:1.
3. When the Lord comes to receive the talents, what would you like Him to say to you? Read and discuss Matthew 25:23, 30.



Judgment on the Talents' Use

MEMORY VERSE: "And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth." Matthew 25:30.

1. What happened to the servant who did not put to good use the talent that the lord entrusted to him? Matthew 25:30.

2. Find the answers to the following questions in Matthew 25:31:
 - a. Who is going to come soon?

 - b. Who will come with Him?

 - c. What will He do?

3. Who will be gathered before Him? Matthew 25:32, first part.

4. What will Jesus do with the nations? Matthew 25:32, second part.

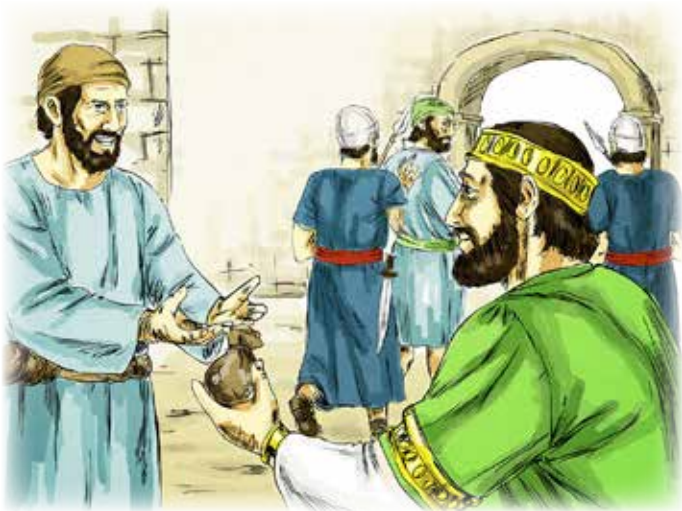
5. What will He do with the sheep? Matthew 25:33, first part.

6. Where will He place the goats? Matthew 25:33, last part.

7. What will Jesus say to those on His right? Matthew 25:34.
8. What will He say to those on the left? Matthew 25:41.

What do you think?

1. On what side will the unprofitable servant be when Jesus comes? Why?
2. Do you know some Bible texts that compare God's people with sheep? Find and list them.
3. Tell what you think God's kingdom will be like.



The Righteous Commended

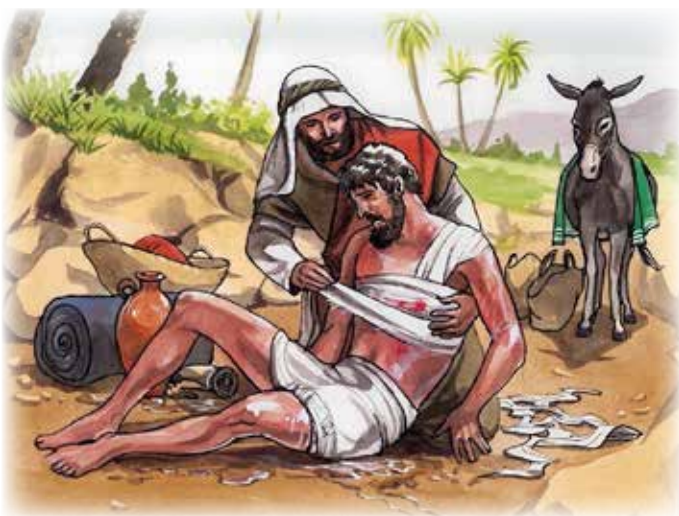
MEMORY VERSE: *"Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." Revelation 22:14.*

1. List the six different things that the righteous did for the Lord according to Verses 35, 36 of the parable that began in Matthew 25:31.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
 - e.
 - f.
2. In Ezekiel 18, the Lord describes what was done by those who will live forever. See Verses 5, 9. What will the righteous do?
3. Will righteous people be aware that the good things that they did were for Jesus? Matthew 25:37-39.
4. What will Jesus tell them? Matthew 25:40.

5. What did Jesus tell His followers to do even for those who curse and persecute them? For what reason? Matthew 5:44, 45.
6. What did He say about how many are willing to do good things for Him? Luke 10:2.
7. What did the apostle Paul advise his brethren? Galatians 6:10.

What do you think?

1. What motivates the righteous to do good things for God and for their fellow human beings?
2. What do good works have to do with one's salvation?
3. What influence can kind words and deeds have on other people?



12

The Wicked Condemned

MEMORY VERSE: *“He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.” 1 John 4:8.*

1. What will be the destiny of the wicked? Matthew 25:41, 46.

2. Write down six things given in Matthew 25:42-44 that show what people often neglect to do.
 - a.

 - b.

 - c.

 - d.

 - e.

 - f.

3. Why did Jesus say that the unfaithful servants had not been a blessing to Him? Matthew 25:45.

4. What very often separates a person from God? Isaiah 2:7.

5. What does the Lord do? Jeremiah 31:3.

6. What makes Him feel very sad? What does He want? Ezekiel 18:32.
7. What did Jesus say about how God treats those who are unthankful and evil? Therefore, what will His people do? Luke 6:35.

Think it through

1. Of whose faithful service is God worthy?
2. How happy would the wicked be if they were to live in God's presence forever?
3. If you love the Lord, how difficult is it to be faithful to Him?



Summary and Review

1. To review Lesson 1, circle the letter below of what is most dangerous to a person's spiritual growth.
 - a. Earthquake
 - b. Famine
 - c. Pestilence
 - d. Deception
2. According to Lesson 2, whom did the Lord say will be saved?
3. Lesson 3 showed that many people living in the last days will trust in signs and wonders. Turn to Matthew 24, and list the scriptures that tell who is behind such miracles and what God's people are to do when confronted with them.
4. How and when will Jesus come? Matthew 24:27, 14, 36.
5. To what time did Jesus compare the last days? Matthew 24:37-39.
6. What did He emphasize about His coming? Matthew 24:44.

7. According to Lesson 6, whom do the virgins of Matthew 25 represent?
8. Who is represented by the bridegroom?
9. Who will finally enter the kingdom of heaven? Matthew 7:21.
10. Review Lessons 8-12, and discuss how you can best use your talents for God.

