



**YOUTH SABBATH
SCHOOL LESSONS**

Third Year, Third Quarter

**THE
FINAL
CRISIS**

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SABBATH SCHOOL LESSONS**

THIRD YEAR, THIRD QUARTER

The Final Crisis

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INTRODUCTION

In this quarter, the young people will study historical events and present developments that will lead up to the close of this world's present history. There have been significant movements and moments in the past when a climax was reached, often having long-lasting effects on entire nations, as well as churches and individuals. It has been so when the evil one, who rebelled in heaven, has apparently gained the upper hand in the affairs of men, threatening to draw the last remaining few into his net. But then we see the tender, loving care of our heavenly Father as he saves His children at such crucial times. A "crisis" was reached that called for a resolute decision and corresponding action.

What is a crisis? According to the dictionary, it is "the decisive point; turning point. A crucial time." The world is facing just such a tremendous crisis now in which every person's closest attention is required so that divine wisdom and prudent action are exercised in the light of present truth. Young men and women are needed who cannot be bought or sold, who will not barter away their eternal hope for the glamor and glitter of present-day temptations and attractions.

May the study of these lessons inspire everyone to make his or her calling and election sure.



1. Shortly before the creation of this earth, who was the most highly favored angel in heaven? What did he think of himself? Ezekiel 28:13, 14.

“Lucifer thought that he was himself a favorite in heaven among the angels. He had been highly exalted, but this did not call forth from him gratitude and praise to his Creator. He aspired to the height of God Himself. He gloried in his loftiness. He knew that he was honored by the angels. He had a special mission to execute. He had been near the great Creator, and the ceaseless beams of glorious light enshrouding the eternal God had shone especially upon him. He thought how angels had obeyed his command with pleasurable alacrity. Were not his garments light and beautiful?” –*The Story of Redemption*, p. 14.

“Satan was once an honored angel in heaven, next to Christ. His countenance, like those of the other angels, was mild and expressive of happiness. His forehead was high and broad, showing great intelligence. His form was perfect; his bearing noble and majestic.” –*Early Writings*, p. 145.

2. However, what do the Scriptures say happened to him? Ezekiel 28:15.

“Little by little, Lucifer came to indulge a desire for self-exaltation.... Instead of seeking to make God supreme in the affections and allegiance of His creatures, it was Lucifer’s endeavor to win their service and homage to himself. And coveting the honor which the infinite Father had bestowed upon His Son, this prince of angels aspired to power which it was the prerogative of Christ alone to wield.” –*The Great Controversy*, p. 494.

“Satan was
jealous of
Jesus.”

“Satan was jealous of Jesus. He wished to be consulted concerning the formation of man, and because he was not, he was filled with envy, jealousy, and hatred.” –*Early Writings*, p. 145.

3. What can and what cannot be understood about such matters? Deuteronomy 29:29.

“To many minds, the origin of sin and the reason for its existence are a source of great perplexity....

“Sin is an intruder, for whose presence no reason can be given. It is mysterious, unaccountable; to excuse it is to defend it. Could excuse for it be found, or cause be shown for its existence, it would cease to be sin. Our only definition of sin is that given in the word of God; it is ‘the transgression of the law;’ it is the outworking of a principle at war with the great law of love which is the foundation of the divine government.” –*The Great Controversy*, pp. 492, 493.

4. How successful was he in furthering his ideas and agenda—and even in convincing himself? Ephesians 6:12; Mark 5:8, 9.

“The spirit of dissatisfaction, thus kindled, was doing its baleful work. While there was no open outbreak, division of feeling imperceptibly grew up among the angels. There were some who looked with favor upon Lucifer’s insinuations against the government of God.... They were dissatisfied with His purpose in exalting Christ. These stood ready to second Lucifer’s demand for equal authority with the Son of God.” –*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 38.

“All the powers of his master-mind were now bent to the work of deception, to secure the sympathy of the angels that had been under his command....

“His high position, in such close connection with the divine administration, gave greater force to his representations, and many were induced to unite with him in rebellion against Heaven’s authority.” –*The Great Controversy*, pp. 496, 497.

5. What perverted freedom did Satan try to influence the inhabitants of heaven to accept? Psalm 119:126; Isaiah 24:5.

“The angels wept. They anxiously sought to move him to renounce his wicked design and yield submission to their Creator; for all had heretofore been peace and harmony, and what could occasion this dissenting, rebellious voice?

“Lucifer refused to listen. And then he turned from the loyal and true angels, denouncing them as slaves....

“Good angels wept to hear the words of Satan and his exulting boasts. God declared that the rebellious should remain in heaven no longer.” –*The Story of Redemption*, pp. 15, 18.

6. What crisis developed? How many were incurably infected by the deception? Revelation 12:7, 4, first part.

“Satan, in his rebellion, took a third part of the angels. They turned from the Father, and from His Son, and united with the instigator of rebellion.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 3, p. 115.

“When Satan became disaffected in heaven, he did not lay his complaint before God and Christ; but he went among the angels who thought him perfect, and represented that God had done him injustice in preferring Christ to himself. The result of this misrepresentation was that through their sympathy with him one-third of the angels lost their innocence, their high estate, and their happy home.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 291.

7. What was the outcome of this greatest of all crises? Revelation 12:8, 9; Luke 10:18; Isaiah 14:12.

“Satan grew bold in his rebellion, and expressed his contempt of the Creator’s law. This Satan could not bear. He claimed that angels needed no law but should be left free to follow their own will, which would ever guide them right; that law was a restriction of their liberty; and that to abolish law was one great object of his standing as he did. The condition of the angels, he thought, needed improvement....

“Then there was war in heaven. The Son of God, the Prince of heaven, and His loyal angels engaged in conflict with the archrebel and those who united with him. The Son of God and His true loyal angels prevailed; and Satan and his sympathizers were expelled from heaven. All the heavenly host acknowledged and adored the God of justice. Not a taint of rebellion was left in heaven. All was again peaceful and harmonious as before. Angels in heaven mourned the fate of those who had been their companions in happiness and bliss. Their loss was felt in heaven.” –*The Story of Redemption*, pp. 18, 19.

“Not a taint of rebellion was left in heaven.”

8. What is Satan determined to do here on earth? Why? Revelation 12:10, 12.

“The work of Satan as an accuser began in heaven. This has been his work on earth ever since man’s fall, and it will be his work in a special sense as we approach nearer to the close of this world’s history. As he sees that his time is short, he will work with greater earnestness to deceive and destroy. He is angry when he sees a people on the earth

who, even in their weakness and sinfulness, have respect to the law of Jehovah. He is determined that they shall not obey God. He delights in their unworthiness, and has devices prepared for every soul, that all may be ensnared and separated from God. He seeks to accuse and condemn God, and all who strive to carry out His purposes in this world in mercy and love, in compassion and forgiveness.” –*Christ’s Object Lessons*, pp. 167, 168.

9. What methods will he use against the last remnant church? Revelation 12:17; Zechariah 3:1, 2.

“Men will be required to render obedience to human edicts in violation of the divine law.”

“Zechariah’s vision of Joshua and the Angel applies with peculiar force to the experience of God’s people in the closing scenes of the great day of atonement. The remnant church will then be brought into great trial and distress. Those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus will feel the ire of the dragon and his hosts. Satan numbers the world as his subjects; he has gained control even of many professing Christians. But here is a little company who are resisting his supremacy. If he could blot them from the earth, his triumph would be complete. As he influenced the heathen nations to destroy Israel, so in the near future he will stir up the wicked powers of earth to destroy the people of God. Men will be required to render obedience to human edicts in violation of the divine law.” –*Prophets and Kings*, pp. 587, 588.

10. For what purpose did God permit this crisis to happen? Ephesians 3:10; 1 Peter 1:12; Romans 11:33.

“For what was the great controversy permitted to continue throughout the ages? Why was it that Satan’s existence was not cut short at the outset of his rebellion? It was that the universe might be convinced of God’s justice in His dealing with evil; that sin might receive eternal condemnation. In the plan of redemption there are heights and depths that eternity itself can never exhaust, marvels into which the angels desire to look. The redeemed only, of all created beings, have in their own experience known the actual conflict with sin; they have wrought with Christ, and, as even the angels could not do, have entered into the fellowship of His sufferings; will they have no testimony as to the science of redemption—nothing that will be of worth to unfallen beings?” –*Education*, p. 308.

1. What crisis came to the first human pair? Genesis 3:6, 7, 9, 24.

“Adam and Eve had chosen the knowledge of evil, and if they ever regained the position they had lost, they must regain it under the unfavorable conditions they had brought upon themselves. No longer were they to dwell in Eden, for in its perfection it could not teach them the lessons which it was now essential for them to learn. In unutterable sadness they bade farewell to their beautiful surroundings, and went forth to dwell upon the earth, where rested the curse of sin.”
—*Education*, p. 25.

2. What other great crisis followed about 1,600 years later? Did people pay attention to what they were told was coming? Genesis 6:5-8, 13, 14.

“But Noah stood like a rock amid the tempest. Surrounded by popular contempt and ridicule, he distinguished himself by his holy integrity and unwavering faithfulness. A power attended his words; for it was the voice of God to man through His servant. Connection with God made him strong in the strength of infinite power, while for one hundred and twenty years his solemn voice fell upon the ears of that generation in regard to events, which, so far as human wisdom could judge, were impossible....

“Noah had faithfully followed the instructions which he had received from God.”

“Had the antediluvians believed the warning, and repented of their evil deeds, the Lord would have turned aside His wrath, as He afterward did from Nineveh. But by their obstinate resistance to the reproofs of conscience and the warnings of God’s prophet, that generation filled up the measure of their iniquity, and became ripe for destruction.

“The period of their probation was about to expire. Noah had faithfully followed the instructions which he had received from God. The ark was finished in every part as the Lord had directed....” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 96, 97.

3. What decisive moment came for Israel in Egypt? Why? Exodus 1:8-11, 14; 3:7, 8, 10.

“... In return for His goodness and mercy, they were to exalt His name and make it glorious in the earth.”

“With great power, and with a mighty hand,’ God brought His chosen people out of the land of Egypt. Exodus 32:11. ‘He sent Moses His servant; and Aaron whom He had chosen. They showed His signs among them, and wonders in the land of Ham.’ ‘He rebuked the Red Sea also, and it was dried up: so He led them through the depths.’ Psalm 105:26, 27; 106:9. He rescued them from their servile state, that He might bring them to a good land, a land which in His providence He had prepared for them as a refuge from their enemies. He would bring them to Himself, and encircle them in His everlasting arms; and in return for His goodness and mercy, they were to exalt His name and make it glorious in the earth.” –*Prophets and Kings*, p. 16.

4. What crisis developed at Sinai? What was revealed, and by whom? Exodus 32:1-4, 7, 26-28.

“Such a crisis demanded a man of firmness, decision, and unflinching courage; one who held the honor of God above popular favor, personal safety, or life itself. But the present leader of Israel was not of this character. Aaron feebly remonstrated with the people, but his wavering and timidity at the critical moment only rendered them the more determined.... There were some who remained true to their covenant with God, but the greater part of the people joined in the apostasy....

“And there are still pliant Aarons, who, while holding positions of authority in the church, will yield to the desires of the unconsecrated, and thus encourage them in sin....

“So with the apostasy at Sinai.... Had these transgressors been spared, evils would have followed, greater than resulted from sparing the life of Cain. It was the mercy of God that thousands should suffer, to prevent the necessity of visiting judgments upon millions.”
–*Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 316, 317, 325.

5. What other crucial event proved a turning point for Israel? Numbers 13:1, 2, 21, 26, 31; 14:1, 2, 29, 34.

“But after describing the beauty and fertility of the land, all but two of the spies enlarged upon the difficulties and dangers that lay before the Israelites should they undertake the conquest of Canaan....

“Their unbelief cast a gloomy shadow over the congregation, and the mighty power of God, so often manifested in behalf of the chosen nation, was forgotten....

“And they repeated their former error of murmuring against Moses and Aaron....

"The people were desperate in their disappointment and despair. A wail of agony arose, and mingled with the confused murmur of voices....

"But there were only two advocating the right, while ten were on the side of rebellion.

"The unfaithful spies were loud in denunciation of Caleb and Joshua, and the cry was raised to stone them. The insane mob seized missiles with which to slay those faithful men. They rushed forward with yells of madness, when suddenly the stones dropped from their hands, a hush fell upon them, and they shook with fear. God had interposed to check their murderous design....

"When Moses made known to the people the divine decision, their rage was changed to mourning. They knew that their punishment was just. The ten unfaithful spies, divinely smitten by the plague, perished before the eyes of all Israel; and in their fate the people read their own doom." *—Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 388, 390, 391.

6. Shortly afterward, what terrible crisis came? What is necessary to learn from this? Numbers 16:1, 3, 12, 21, 26, 31, 32.

"It is hardly possible for men to offer greater insult to God than to despise and reject the instrumentalities He would use for their salvation. The Israelites had not only done this, but had purposed to put Moses and Aaron to death....

"The guilt of sin did not rest upon Moses, and hence he did not fear, and did not hasten away and leave the congregation to perish. Moses lingered, in this fearful crisis manifesting the true shepherd's interest for the flock of his care. He pleaded that the wrath of God might not utterly destroy the people of His choice. By his intercession he stayed the arm of vengeance, that a full end might not be made of disobedient, rebellious Israel." *—Patriarchs and Prophets*, p.402.

7. Who proved faithful in another decisive crisis? How should such situations be dealt with? 1 Kings 17:1; 18:20, 21, 30, 38, 39.

"Facing King Ahab and the false prophets, and surrounded by the assembled hosts of Israel, Elijah stands, the only one who has appeared to vindicate the honor of Jehovah....

"The Lord abhors indifference and disloyalty in a time of crisis in His work.... His special blessing accompanies the labors of men of action, men who will not be swerved from the straight line of duty, but who with divine energy will inquire, 'Who is on the Lord's side?' men who will not stop merely with the inquiry, but who will demand that

those who choose to identify themselves with the people of God shall step forward and reveal unmistakably their allegiance to the King of kings and Lord of lords. Fidelity to God is their motto.” *–Prophets and Kings*, pp. 147, 148.

8. What happened in the time of the second world empire? What lesson is important to learn from this? Esther 3:6; 4:1, 15, 16; 7:5, 6, 10.

“In the providence of God, Esther, a Jewess who feared the Most High, had been made queen of the Medo-Persian kingdom. Mordecai was a near relative of hers. In their extremity, they decided to appeal to Xerxes in behalf of their people. Esther was to venture into his presence as in intercessor. ‘Who knoweth,’ said Mordecai, ‘whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?’

“The crisis that Esther faced demanded quick, earnest action;...”
–Prophets and Kings, p. 601.

9. Not too long afterward, what other crisis did God’s faithful servants face? Nehemiah 1:3; 4:1, 3, 6, 16; 6:3, 15, 16.

“The opposition and discouragement that the builders in Nehemiah’s day met from open enemies and pretended friends, is typical of the experience that those today will have who work for God....

“Satan takes advantage of every unconsecrated element for the accomplishment of his purposes. Among those who profess to be the supporters of God’s cause, there are those who unite with His enemies and thus lay His cause open to the attacks of His bitterest foes. Even some who desire the work of God to prosper will yet weaken the hands of His servants by hearing, reporting, and half believing the slanders, boasts, and menaces of His adversaries.” *–Prophets and Kings*, pp. 644, 645.

10. What is especially necessary to learn from the crisis faced by God’s people under the Babylonian Empire? Daniel 3:1, 4-6, 12, 14, 16, 17, 20, 25, 28.

“... The Lord will work mightily in behalf of those who stand steadfastly for the right.”

“As in the days of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, so in the closing period of earth’s history the Lord will work mightily in behalf of those who stand steadfastly for the right. He who walked with the Hebrew worthies in the fiery furnace will be with His followers wherever they are.... In the midst of the time of trouble—trouble such as has not been since there was a nation—His chosen ones will stand unmoved.” *–Prophets and Kings*, p. 513.

- I. What crisis did Jesus' disciples face? Why did so many forsake the Master? John 6:35, 60, 66.

"If men could have the world with Christ, multitudes would have proffered Him their allegiance; but such service He could not accept. Of those now connected with Him, there were many who were attracted by the hope of a worldly kingdom. These must be undeceived....

"As our physical life is sustained by food, so our spiritual life is sustained by the word of God. And every soul is to receive life from God's word for himself. As we must eat for ourselves in order to receive nourishment, so we must receive the word for ourselves....

"The test was too great. The enthusiasm of those who had sought to take Him by force and make Him king grew cold. This discourse in the synagogue, they declared, had opened their eyes. Now they were undeceived.... They cared not for the mysterious spiritual kingdom of which He spoke. The insincere, the selfish, who had sought Him, no longer desired Him. If He would not devote His power and influence to obtaining their freedom from the Romans, they would have nothing to do with Him....

"Their decision was never afterward reversed; for they walked no more with Jesus." –*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 383, 390-392.

2. How severely were the early Christians tested? What was their response? Matthew 24:9; Revelation 2:10.

"Paganism foresaw that should the gospel triumph, her temples and altars would be swept away; therefore she summoned her forces to destroy Christianity. The fires of persecution were kindled. Christians were stripped of their possessions, and driven from their homes. They 'endured a great fight of afflictions.' They 'had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment.' Great numbers sealed their testimony with their blood. Noble and slave, rich and poor, learned and ignorant, were alike slain without mercy.

"These persecutions, beginning under Nero about the time of the martyrdom of Paul, continued with greater or less fury for centuries.... Great numbers were thrown to wild beasts or burned alive in the amphitheaters. Some were crucified; others were covered with the skins of wild animals, and thrust into the arena to be torn by dogs.... Vast multitudes assembled to enjoy the sight, and greeted their dying agonies with laughter and applause." –*The Great Controversy*, pp. 39, 40.

3. What satanic scheme severely affected the early church? What parallel to this exists today? 2 Thessalonians 2:3, 7, 9-11.

"The great adversary now endeavored to gain by artifice what he had failed to secure by force. Persecution ceased, and in its stead were substituted the dangerous allurements of temporal prosperity, and worldly honor. Idolaters were led to receive a part of the Christian faith, while they rejected other essential truths....

"Now the church was in fearful peril."

"Now the church was in fearful peril. Prison, torture, fire and sword were blessings in comparison with this.... Under a cloak of pretended Christianity, Satan was insinuating himself into the church, to corrupt their faith, and turn their minds from the word of truth.

"Most of the Christians at last consented to lower their standard, and a union was formed between Christianity and paganism." –*The Great Controversy*, pp. 42, 43.

4. How were the true Christians treated by the so-called "Christian" church during this terrible time? Daniel 7:25; Revelation 17:3, 6.

"In the sixth century the papacy had become firmly established.... And now began the 1260 years of papal oppression foretold in the prophecies of Daniel and the Revelation. Christians were forced to choose either to yield their integrity and accept the papal ceremonies and worship, or to wear away their lives in dungeons or suffer death by the rack, the fagot, or the headsman's ax.... Persecution opened upon the faithful with greater fury than before, and the world became a vast battlefield. For hundreds of years the church of Christ found refuge in seclusion and obscurity....

"The accession of the Roman Church to power marked the beginning of the Dark Ages." –*The Great Controversy*, pp. 54, 55.

5. How did a crisis develop within the ranks of the apparently faithful Waldenses? Revelation 2:13.

"But of those who resisted the encroachments of the papal power, the Waldenses stood foremost.... For centuries the churches of Piedmont maintained their independence; but the time came at last when Rome insisted upon their submission. After ineffectual struggles against her tyranny, the leaders of these churches reluctantly acknowledged the supremacy of the power to which the whole world seemed to pay homage. There were some, however, who refused to yield to the authority of pope or prelate. They were determined to maintain their allegiance to God, and to preserve the purity and simplicity of their faith. A separation took place. Those who adhered to the ancient faith now withdrew;...

"Behind the lofty bulwarks of the mountains—in all ages the refuge of the persecuted and oppressed—the Waldenses found a hiding place. Here the light of truth was kept burning amid the darkness of the Middle Ages. Here, for a thousand years, witnesses for the truth maintained the ancient faith." —*The Great Controversy*, pp. 64, 65.

6. What Reformer faced a crisis in his life? How did he meet it? Psalm 118:16-18.

"In the fourteenth century arose in England the 'morning star of the Reformation.' John Wycliffe was the herald of reform, not for England alone, but for all Christendom....

"The papal thunders were soon hurled against him. Three bulls were dispatched to England—to the university, to the king, and to the prelates—all commanding immediate and decisive measures to silence the teacher of heresy....

"But suddenly his labors were stopped.... He was attacked by a dangerous illness. The tidings brought great joy to the friars.... Representatives from the four religious orders, with four civil officers, gathered about the supposed dying man. 'You have death on your lips,' they said; 'be touched by your faults, and retract in our presence all that you have said to our injury.' The Reformer listened in silence; then he bade his attendant raise him in his bed, and gazing steadily upon them as they stood waiting for his recantation, he said, in the firm, strong voice which had so often caused them to tremble, 'I shall not die, but live, and again declare the evil deeds of the friars.' Astonished and abashed, the monks hurried from the room." —*The Great Controversy*, pp. 80, 85, 87, 88.

7. Who else stood faithful in the crisis of his life? Matthew 10:28, 25, 38.

"The city of Prague was filled with tumult. A large class denounced Huss as the cause of all their calamities, and demanded that he be given up to the vengeance of Rome. To quiet the storm the Reformer withdrew for a time to his native village.... Huss did not cease his labors, but traveled through the surrounding country, preaching to eager crowds. Thus the measures to which the pope resorted to suppress the gospel, were causing it to be more widely extended. 'We can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth.'..."

"For the last time, Huss was brought before the council...."

"Sentence having been pronounced, the ceremony of degradation began.... The vestments were removed one by one, each bishop pronouncing a curse as he performed his part of the ceremony. Finally 'they put on his head a cap or pyramidal-shaped miter of paper, on which were painted frightful figures of demons, with the word 'Archheretic' conspicuous in front...."

"He was now delivered up to the secular authorities, and led away to the place of execution.... When the flames kindled about him, he began to sing, Jesus, Thou Son of David, have mercy on me, and so continued till his voice was silenced forever.

"Even his enemies were struck with his heroic bearing." –*The Great Controversy*, pp. 101, 108, 109.

8. During the Reformation, what crisis did the German princes face in Spires? What was their decisive reply? Matthew 10:18-20; Daniel 11:33, 34.

"A dark and threatening day had come for the Reformation.... Again and again the immediate destruction of all who dared to oppose themselves to Rome appeared inevitable;..."

"The Diet of Spires in 1526 had given each state full liberty in matters of religion until the meeting of a general council; but no sooner had the dangers passed which secured this concession, than the emperor summoned a second Diet to convene at Spires in 1529 for the purpose of crushing heresy...."

"The evangelical princes in attendance at the Diet were forbidden even to have the gospel preached in their dwellings...."

"This hastened the crisis. An imperial message announced to the Diet that as the resolution granting liberty of conscience had given rise to great disorders, the emperor required that it be annulled...."

"As a compromise it was finally proposed that where the Reformation had not become established, the edict of Worms should be rigorously enforced;..."

“Let us reject this decree,’ said the princes. ‘In matters of conscience the majority has no power.’”

“If this edict were enforced, ‘the Reformation could neither be extended ... where as yet it was unknown, nor be established on solid foundations ... where it already existed.’ Liberty of speech would be prohibited....

“As the evangelical party met for consultation, one looked to another in blank dismay. From one to another passed the inquiry, ‘What is to be done?’ ...

“Let us reject this decree,’ said the princes. ‘In matters of conscience the majority has no power.’” –*The Great Controversy*, pp. 197, 198, 199, 201.

9. What terrible crisis did the Huguenots suffer in France? Hebrews 11:36, 37; Luke 21:12, 16, 17.

“But blackest in the black catalogue of crime, most horrible among the fiendish deeds of all the dreadful centuries, was the St. Bartholomew Massacre. The world still recalls with shuddering horror the scenes of that most cowardly and cruel onslaught. The king of France, urged on by Romish priests and prelates, lent his sanction to the dreadful work. A bell, tolling at dead of night, was a signal for the slaughter. Protestants by thousands, sleeping quietly in their homes, trusting to the plighted honor of their king, were dragged forth without a warning and murdered in cold blood.” –*The Great Controversy*, p. 272.

10. What situation developed among the early Adventists in 1844? How did the believers suffer to the depths of their souls? Matthew 25:1, 2, 5; Revelation 10:9, 10.

“By the tarrying of the bridegroom is represented the passing of the time when the Lord was expected, the disappointment, and the seeming delay....

“The time of expectation passed, and their Saviour did not appear....

“A large class who had professed to believe in the Lord’s soon coming, renounced their faith. Some who had been very confident were so deeply wounded in their pride that they felt like fleeing from the world....

“Yet this disappointment was not so great as was that experienced by the disciples at the time of Christ’s first advent....

“True, there had been a failure as to the expected event, but even this could not shake their faith in the word of God....

“For yet a little while, and He that shall come will come, and will not tarry.’ And it is plainly implied that there would be a seeming delay, and that the Lord would appear to tarry. The instruction here given is especially adapted to the experience of Adventists at this time.... The scoffing world were saying: ‘You have been deceived. Give up your faith, and say that the Advent Movement was of Satan.’ But God’s word declared: ‘If any man draw back, My soul shall have no pleasure in him.’” –*The Great Controversy*, pp. 394, 403, 404, 406, 408.



Crisis During the Advent Movement

- I. Why does the Lord allow crises to come to His people? 2 Chronicles 20:17; Exodus 14:14.

“The Lord has allowed matters in our day to come to a crisis, in the exaltation of error above truth, that He, the God of Israel, might work mightily for the greater elevation of His truth in proportion as error is exalted.

“His mighty arm has been stretched out for the deliverance of His people.”

“With His eye upon the church, the Lord has again and again allowed matters to come to a crisis, that in their extremity His people should look alone for His help.... His mighty arm has been stretched out for the deliverance of His people. God reserves His gracious interposition in their behalf till the time of their extremity; thus He makes their deliverance more marked, and their victories more glorious. When all human wisdom fails, the Lord’s interference will be more clearly recognized, and He will receive the glory that is His due. Even the enemies of our faith, persecutors, will perceive that God is working for His people in turning their captivity.” –*Selected Messages*, book 2, p. 372.

2. What was Sister Ellen G. White shown was the underlying cause of the Civil War in the United States? Proverbs 17:3; Isaiah 48:10.

“I saw greater distress in the land than we have yet witnessed. I heard groans and cries of distress, and saw large companies in active battle. I heard the booming of the cannon, the clash of arms, the hand-to-hand fight, and the groans and prayers of the dying. The ground was covered with the wounded and the dead. I saw desolate, despairing families, and pinching want in many dwellings....

“God is punishing this nation for the high crime of slavery. He has the destiny of the nation in His hands. He will punish the South for the sin of slavery, and the North for so long suffering its overreaching and overbearing influence.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, pp. 260, 264.

3. What heavenly counsel was given at this hour? To what else does this principle apply? Matthew 5:39, 44; 26:52.

“He who has God’s law written in the heart, will obey God rather than men, and will sooner disobey all men than deviate in the least from the commandment of God....

“Shall we obey
God, or man?”

“I was shown that God’s people, who are His peculiar treasure, cannot engage in this perplexing war, for it is opposed to every principle of their faith. In the army they cannot obey the truth and at the same time obey the requirements of their officers. There would be a continual violation of conscience. Worldly men are governed by worldly principles. They can appreciate no other. Worldly policy and public opinion comprise the principle of action that governs them and leads them to practice the form of rightdoing. But God’s people cannot be governed by these motives.... The ten precepts of Jehovah are the foundation of all righteous and good laws. Those who love God’s commandments will conform to every good law of the land. But if the requirements of the rulers are such as conflict with the laws of God, the only question to be settled is: Shall we obey God, or man?”
–*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, pp. 361, 362.

4. When and where did another great crisis develop among Adventists? Was the message heeded? Jeremiah 23:6; 33:16.

“The Lord in His great mercy sent a most precious message to His people through Elders Waggoner and 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.” –*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, pp. 91, 92.

“When Christ was lifted up as the only hope of the church and of all men, they met united opposition by nearly all of the senior ministers. They tried to stop the messengers from further presentation or discussion of Righteousness by Faith, and when Mrs. E.G. White told them God’s providence had led Elders Jones and Waggoner to cry aloud on the subject, the opposition selected a man to speak their minds in opposition.” –*An Eyewitness Account*, by R.T. Nash, June 25, 1955.

5. What was the general reaction of some leaders to the decisive message? To what was the message attributed? Romans 10:3, 4; Philippians 3:9.

“I shall never, I think, be called to stand under the direction of the Holy Spirit as I stood at Minneapolis. The presence of Jesus was with me. All assembled in that meeting had an opportunity to place themselves on the side of truth by receiving the Holy Spirit, which

was sent by God in such a rich current of love and mercy. But in the rooms occupied by some of our people, we heard ridicule, criticism, jeering, laughter. The manifestations of the Holy Spirit were attributed to fanaticism. Who searched the Holy Scriptures as did the noble Bereans, to see if the things they heard were so? Who prayed for divine guidance? The scenes which took place at this meeting made the God of heaven ashamed to call those who took part in them, His brethren. All this the heavenly Father noticed and it is written in the book of God's remembrance." –*The Paulson Collection* of Ellen G. White Letters, p. 351.

6. What crisis developed in the publishing work? What did God's servant say about this? 2 Corinthians 6:14-17.

"The presses in the Lord's institution have been printing the soul-destroying theories of Romanism and other mysteries of iniquity. The office must be purged of this objectionable matter....

"You have given matter containing Satan's sentiments into the hands of the workers, bringing his deceptive, polluting principles before their minds.... I have been almost afraid to open the *Review*, fearing to see that God has cleansed the publishing house by fire....

"Unless there is a reformation, calamity will overtake the publishing house, and the world will know the reason." –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 8, pp. 91, 96.

7. What happened? How dangerous is it to reject God's counsel? Galatians 6:7.

"It has been asked if I have any advice to give. I have already given the advice that God has given me, hoping to prevent the falling of the fiery sword that was hanging over Battle Creek. Now that which I dreaded has come—the news of the burning of the *Review* and Herald building. When this news came, I felt no surprise, and I had no words to speak. What I have had to say from time to time in warnings has had no effect, except to harden those who heard, and now I can only say: I am so sorry, so very sorry, that it was necessary for this stroke to come. Light enough has been given. If it were acted upon, further light would not be needed." –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 8, p. 99.

8. What other facility was destroyed by fire? Why? 2 Chronicles 20:20, last part.

“The Lord permitted fire to consume the principal buildings of the Review and Herald and the sanitarium, and thus removed the greatest objection urged against moving out of Battle Creek. It was His design that instead of rebuilding the one large sanitarium, our people should make plants in several places. These smaller sanitariums should have been established where land could be secured for agricultural purposes. It is God’s plan that agriculture shall be connected with the work of our sanitariums and schools. Our youth need the education to be gained from this line of work.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 8, pp. 227, 228.

9. Who brought another crisis to God’s cause? By what means? 2 Timothy 2:15, 23; 1 Timothy 1:19.

“For many years Dr. J.H. Kellogg has occupied the position of leading physician in the medical work carried on by the Seventh-day Adventists. It would be impossible for him to act as leader of the general work. This has never been his part, and it never can be.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 8, p. 237.

“One and another come to me, asking me to explain the positions taken in *Living Temple* [by Dr. J.H. Kellogg]. I reply, ‘They are unexplainable.’ The sentiments expressed do not give a true knowledge of God. All through the book are passages of Scripture. These scriptures are brought in in such a way that error is made to appear as truth. Erroneous theories are presented in so pleasing a way that unless care is taken, many will be misled.

“We need not the mysticism that is in this book....”

“I knew that I must warn our brethren and sisters not to enter into controversy over the presence and personality of God. The statements made in *Living Temple* in regard to this point are incorrect. The scripture used to substantiate the doctrine there set forth, is scripture misapplied.” –*Selected Messages*, book 1, pp. 202, 203.

10. Whenever a crisis comes, what is needed, especially on the part of the young people? How is this possible for them? 2 Timothy 1:12, 13.

“Let young men set up well-defined landmarks, by which they may be governed in emergencies. When a crisis comes that demands active, well-developed physical powers and a clear, strong, practical mind; when difficult work is to be done, where every stroke must tell; when perplexities arise which can be met only by wisdom from on high, then the youth who have learned to overcome difficulties by earnest labor can respond to the call for workers.” –*Gospel Workers*, pp. 106, 107.

1. What impressive message was given as early as 1890? What would these events show clearly? Ezekiel 7:6; Isaiah 24:1, 5, 6.

“The tempest is coming, and we must get ready for its fury by having repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord will arise to shake terribly the earth. We shall see troubles on all sides. Thousands of ships will be hurled into the depths of the sea. Navies will go down, and human lives will be sacrificed by millions. Fires will break out unexpectedly, and no human effort will be able to quench them. The palaces of the earth will be swept away in the fury of the flames. Disasters by rail will become more and more frequent; confusion, collision, and death without a moment’s warning will occur on the great lines of travel. The end is near, probation is closing.”
—*Messages to Young People*, pp. 89, 90.

2. What was going to characterize a crisis about which God’s people were forewarned in 1913? Matthew 24:7; Revelation 11:18.

“Men of clear understanding are needed now. God calls upon those who are willing to be controlled by the Holy Spirit to lead out in a work of thorough reformation. I see a crisis before us, and the Lord calls for His laborers to come into line....

“There are some who do not even now view matters in the right light; but these may learn to see eye to eye with their co-workers, and may avoid making serious mistakes by earnestly seeking the Lord at this time and by submitting their will wholly to the will of God.” —*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, pp. 514, 515 (1913).

3. According to prophecy, under certain circumstances, what would certain men decide to do? What crisis occurred at the beginning of World War I in Germany, and what decision did Adventist leaders make? Acts 5:29; Galatians 1:10.

“There is a prospect before us of a continued struggle, at the risk of imprisonment, loss of property, and even of life itself, to defend the law of God, which is made void by the laws of men. In this situation worldly policy will urge an outward compliance with the laws of the land, for the sake of peace and harmony. And there are some who will even urge such a course from the scripture, ‘Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers.... The powers that be are ordained of God.’”
–*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 712.

“Charlottenburg, August 4, 1914

“Most Honorable Lord General and Minister of War:

“... While we stand on the fundamentals of the Holy Scriptures, and seek to fulfill the precepts of Christendom, keeping the Rest Day (Saturday) that God established in the beginning, by endeavoring to put aside all work on that day, still in these times of stress, we have bound ourselves together in defense of the ‘Fatherland,’ and under these circumstances we will also bear arms on Saturday (Sabbath). On this point we take our stand on the Scripture found in 1 Peter 2:13-17....

“(Signed) H. F. Schubert, President”

“But at the outbreak of the war the Leaders of the Adventist Organization in Germany, of their own accord, advised all their military service members, in all the land, under the pressing circumstances and need of the Fatherland to do their duties required of them as citizens, according to the Scripture; and earnestly to do on Saturday (Sabbath) as other warriors do on Sunday....

“(Signed) L.R. Conradi, President

“H.F. Schubert, President

“P. Drinhaus, President” –Written March 5, 1915.

4. What happened to the faithful believers as a result of the above decision? Did they exit the church of their own free will? Luke 6:22, 23; John 16:2.

“At the beginning of the war our denomination divided into two parts. While ninety-eight per cent of our membership took the position on Bible ground that it was their conscientious duty to defend the Fatherland with weapons, and that also on the Sabbath,... two per cent, however, did not submit themselves to this united resolution, and therefore had to be disfellowshipped because of their unchristian conduct....” –*Dresdner Spätesten Nachrichten* (Dresden Latest News), April 12, 1918.

“Often those who follow in the steps of the Reformers are forced to turn away from the churches they love...”

“Called to account for this by the church, because of their stiff endurance in their position and as threatening the internal and external peace, they had to be disfellowshipped from the church.” –*Berliner Lokalanzeiger* (Berlin Local News), No. 432, August 24, 1918.

“Often those who follow in the steps of the Reformers are forced to turn away from the churches they love, in order to declare the plain teaching of the word of God. And many times those who are seeking for light are by the same teaching obliged to leave the church of their fathers, that they may render obedience.” –*The Desire of Ages*, p. 232.

5. What is extremely hard to bear in such a crisis? What happened in this regard in World War I? Isaiah 66:5; Matthew 24:10.

“As the storm approaches, a large class who have professed faith in the third angel’s message, but have not been sanctified through obedience to the truth, abandon their position, and join the ranks of the opposition. By uniting with the world and partaking of its spirit, they have come to view matters in nearly the same light; and when the test is brought, they are prepared to choose the easy, popular side. Men of talent and pleasing address, who once rejoiced in the truth, employ their powers to deceive and mislead souls. They become the most bitter enemies of their former brethren.” –*The Great Controversy*, p. 608.

“These unprofitable elements set themselves up as preachers, and with small results, made propaganda for their foolish ideas. They call themselves falsely preachers and Adventists; they are not, they are deceivers. When such elements shall receive their merited punishment, we regard it, in fact, a favor done toward us...” –*Dresdner Späteten Nachrichten* (Dresden Latest News), April 12, 1918.

6. What other crisis was foretold? How was this fulfilled? Luke 21:25, 26.

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

7. To whom was it written that people would look for help? What happened to the Reform Movement? Jeremiah 17:5; Isaiah 2:22.

“Everything in our world is in agitation. Coming events cast their shadows before. The signs of the times are ominous, indeed. There is assurance in nothing that is human and earthly....”

“Rapidly are men ranging themselves under the banner they have chosen, restlessly waiting and watching the movements of their leaders. There are those who are watching and waiting and working for our Lord’s appearing; while the other party are rapidly falling into line under the generalship of the first great apostate. They look for a God in humanity, and Satan personifies the one they seek. Multitudes will be so deluded through their rejection of truth, that they will accept the counterfeit. Humanity is hailed as God.

“Herein is the masterly working of Satan. He pretends to be the saviour of man, the benefactor of the human race, and thus he more readily lures his victims to destruction.

“Sleepless vigilance is the price of safety...”

“We are warned in the word of God that sleepless vigilance is the price of safety...” –*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, pp. 364, 365.

The following statement was typical of Adventist declarations made during the time of Adolf Hitler, the German leader in World War II.

“Therefore we [Seventh-day Adventists] not only submit willingly, but also gladly to any service required of us. To those who lose their life by so doing, the words may be applied: ‘Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.’ John 15:13. Let us remember our fighting men, and especially our brothers who risk their life for their country and for those who are left behind. We will also pray for the ‘Fuehrer’ [Hitler] and his co-workers.” –*Der Adventbote* (The Advent Messenger) (official Seventh-day Adventist Church paper in Germany), October 1, 1939.

The following decree was issued by the German government regarding the Reform Movement: “In accordance with Section 1 of the People’s Ordinance of the Reich’s President for the protection of the people and the state of February 28, 1933 (*Reich’s Law Publication I*, p. 83), the sect ‘Seventh-day Adventist Reform Movement’ is herewith dissolved and prohibited in the whole of the German Reich. Their property is confiscated....”

“Because the stand of this sect is liable to create confusion among the population, its dissolution was necessary for the protection of people and state.

“Representative: [signed] Heydrich.”

8. What position will Christians take in reference to the kings of the earth? Why? James 4:4; Revelation 17:1, 2.

“Babylon is also charged with the sin of unlawful connection with ‘the kings of the earth.’

“Many of the Protestant churches are following Rome’s example of iniquitous connection with ‘the kings of the earth’—the state churches, by their relation to secular governments; and other denominations, by seeking the favor of the world....

“It was by departure from the Lord, and alliance with the heathen, that the Jewish church became a harlot; and Rome, corrupting herself in like manner by seeking the support of worldly powers, receives a like condemnation.” —*The Great Controversy*, pp. 382, 383.

9. What can be expected in coming crises if God’s professed people are disloyal to Him when tested by less difficult matters? Jeremiah 12:5.

“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. Instead of being strengthened and confirmed by opposition, threats, and abuse, they will cowardly take the side of the opposers....

“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.

10. What is it called when people seek help from a human source, instead of from God? Isaiah 30:1-3, 5, 7; Hosea 4:12, 13, 17.

“The warnings given in the word of God to the children of Israel were meant, not merely for them, but for all who should live upon the earth....

“If the Lord reproveth His people anciently because they neglected to seek counsel of Him when in difficulty, will He not be displeased today if His people, instead of depending on the bright beams of the Sun of Righteousness to lighten their way, turn from Him in their test and trial for the aid of human beings who are as erring and inefficient as themselves? Where is our strength? Is it in men who are as helpless and dependent as ourselves, who need guidance from God even as we do?” —*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, pp. 380, 381.

The Present Religious Crisis

1. How cunning will Satan's deception be before Jesus' coming? What methods does he use? Matthew 24:24; Revelation 12:9.

"He [Satan] does not always wear the ferocious look of the lion, but when he can work to better effect he transforms himself into an angel of light. He can readily exchange the roar of the lion for the most persuasive arguments, or for the softest whisper. He has legions of angels to aid him in his work. He often conceals his snares, and allures by pleasing deception. He charms and deludes many by flattering their vanity. Through his agents he presents the pleasures of the world in an attractive light, and strews the path to hell with tempting flowers, and thus souls are charmed and ruined. After every advance step in the downward road, Satan has some special temptation to lead them still farther on the wrong track." –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2, p. 287.

2. What must be understood about Satan's deceptions? 2 Thessalonians 2:9, 10.

"The coming of the Lord is to be perceived by 'the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness.'... No mere impostures are here foretold. Men are deceived by the miracles which Satan's agents have power to do, not which they pretend to do.

"The prince of darkness, who has so long bent the powers of his mastermind to the work of deception, skillfully adapts his temptations to men of all classes and conditions." –*The Great Controversy*, p. 553.

3. What types of channels does he use? Matthew 7:22; 2 Timothy 3:1, 13, 5.

"Counterfeit holiness, spurious sanctification, is still doing its work of deception.... This is one of Satan's most successful devices to cast reproach upon purity and truth....

“He who could appear clothed with the brightness of the heavenly seraphs before Christ in the wilderness of temptation, comes to men in the most attractive manner, as an angel of light. He appeals to the reason by the presentation of elevating themes, he delights the fancy with enrapturing scenes, and he enlists the affections by his eloquent portrayals of love and charity.” –*The Great Controversy*, pp. 193, 554.

4. What test must one apply to every religious teaching? What will be revealed? 1 John 2:4; Isaiah 8:20.

“Instead of releasing man from obedience, it is faith, and faith only, that makes us partakers of the grace of Christ, which enables us to render obedience.

“We do not earn salvation by our obedience; for salvation is the free gift of God, to be received by faith. But obedience is the fruit of faith.... Here is the true test. If we abide in Christ, if the love of God dwells in us, our feelings, our thoughts, our purposes, our actions, will be in harmony with the will of God as expressed in the precepts of His holy law.... Righteousness is defined by the standard of God’s holy law, as expressed in the ten precepts given on Sinai.” –*Steps to Christ*, pp. 60, 61.

“Obedience is the test of discipleship.”

“Obedience is the test of discipleship. It is the keeping of the commandments that proves the sincerity of our professions of love. When the doctrine we accept kills sin in the heart, purifies the soul from defilement, bears fruit unto holiness, we may know that it is the truth of God. When benevolence, kindness, tenderheartedness, sympathy, are manifest in our lives; when the joy of right doing is in our hearts; when we exalt Christ, and not self, we may know that our faith is of the right order. ‘Hereby we do know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.’ 1 John 2:3.” –*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, pp. 146, 147.

5. What does the human ear love to hear? What is Christ’s view of this? 2 Timothy 4:3, 4; 2 Thessalonians 2:10, 11.

“Christ never flattered men. He never spoke that which would exalt their fancies and imaginations, nor did He praise them for their clever inventions; but deep, unprejudiced thinkers received His teaching, and found that it tested their wisdom. They marveled at the spiritual truth expressed in the simplest language. The most highly educated were charmed with His words, and the uneducated were always profited. He had a message for the illiterate; and He made even the heathen to understand that He had a message for them.” –*The Desire of Ages*, p. 254.

“Words of praise and flattery from worldlings are received as sweet morsels, but the judgment of those who love this sort of food is in accordance with the weakness which they show in this direction.... Their Christian experience is largely dependent on flattery and human appreciation. The fear and love of God are not interwoven in their experience.” –*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 270.

6. What is the basis for so-called “religious” revivals? What false message do the participants hear? Isaiah 2:2-5; 1 Thessalonians 5:3.

“... All who are honest will leave the fallen churches, and take their stand with the remnant.”

“I saw that God has honest children among the nominal Adventists and the fallen churches, and before the plagues shall be poured out, ministers and people will be called out from these churches and will gladly receive the truth. Satan knows this; and before the loud cry of the third angel is given, he raises an excitement in these religious bodies, that those who have rejected the truth may think that God is with them. He hopes to deceive the honest and lead them to think that God is still working for the churches. But the light will shine, and all who are honest will leave the fallen churches, and take their stand with the remnant.” –*Early Writings*, p. 261.

7. Regardless of cries for peace, what does the Lord declare? What is going on today that relates to this? Isaiah 2:6, 9; Joel 3:9-14.

“We are standing on the threshold of great and solemn events. Prophecies are fulfilling. Strange and eventful history is being recorded in the books of heaven—events which it was declared should shortly precede the great day of God. Everything in the world is in an unsettled state. The nations are angry, and great preparations for war are being made. Nation is plotting against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. The great day of God is hasting greatly. But although the nations are mustering their forces for war and bloodshed, the command to the angels is still in force, that they hold the four winds until the servants of God are sealed in their foreheads.” –*Selected Messages*, book 1, pp. 221, 222.

8. What symbolizes the combined churches that accept Christ in name only? What does it mean to eat one’s own bread and wear one’s own apparel, in place of that of the “one man”? Isaiah 4:1; Revelation 17:3, 5.

“In Revelation 17, Babylon is represented as a woman, a figure which is used in the Bible as a symbol of a church, a virtuous woman representing a pure church, a vile woman an apostate church.

"In the Bible the sacred and enduring character of the relation that exists between Christ and His church is represented by the union of marriage.... And Paul employs the same figure in the New Testament when he says, 'I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.'

"The unfaithfulness of the church to Christ in permitting her confidence and affection to be turned from Him, and allowing the love of worldly things to occupy the soul, is likened to the violation of the marriage vow." –*The Great Controversy*, p. 381.

9. What will be Satan's greatest deception at the end of time? Matthew 24:24.

"As the crowning act in the drama of deception, Satan himself will personate Christ.... The glory that surrounds him is unsurpassed by anything that mortal eyes have yet beheld. The shout of triumph rings out upon the air, 'Christ has come! Christ has come!' The people prostrate themselves in adoration before him, while he lifts up his hands, and pronounces a blessing upon them, as Christ blessed His disciples when He was upon the earth. His voice is soft and subdued, yet full of melody. In gentle, compassionate tones he presents some of the same gracious, heavenly truths which the Saviour uttered; he heals the diseases of the people, and then, in his assumed character of Christ, he claims to have changed the Sabbath to Sunday, and commands all to hallow the day which he has blessed. He declares that those who persist in keeping holy the seventh day are blaspheming his name by refusing to listen to his angels sent to them with light and truth. This is the strong, almost overmastering delusion." –*The Great Controversy*, p. 624.

10. Of what should every Christian be careful? Why? What threatens every person's salvation? 1 Corinthians 10:12, 13.

"We should now acquaint ourselves with God by proving His promises. Angels record every prayer that is earnest and sincere. We should rather dispense with selfish gratifications than neglect communion with God. The deepest poverty, the greatest self-denial, with His approval, is better than riches, honors, ease, and friendship without it. We must take time to pray. If we allow our minds to be absorbed by worldly interests, the Lord may give us time by removing from us our idols of gold, of houses, or of fertile land....

"We should now acquaint ourselves with God by proving His promises."

"The 'time of trouble such as never was,' is soon to open upon us; and we shall need an experience which we do not now possess, and which many are too indolent to obtain." –*The Great Controversy*, p. 622.

1. What freedom of choice did God originally give to man? Why? Joshua 24:15; Jeremiah 21:8.

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

2. What freedom do Christians have, which they must also grant to others? Romans 14:12, 5, last part.

“In matters of conscience, the soul must be left untrammelled.”

“In matters of conscience, the soul must be left untrammelled. No one is to control another’s mind, to judge for another, or to prescribe his duty. God gives to every soul freedom to think, and to follow his own convictions. ‘Every one of us shall give account of himself to God.’ No one has a right to merge his own individuality in that of another. In all matters where principle is involved, ‘let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.’ In Christ’s kingdom there is no lordly oppression, no compulsion of manner. The angels of heaven do not come to the earth to rule, and to exact homage, but as messengers of mercy, to cooperate with men in uplifting humanity.” –*The Desire of Ages*, p. 550.

3. How did Paul educate his conscience? Why is this important for everyone? Acts 23:1; 24:16; Hebrews 13:18.

“The greatest want of the world is the want of men—men who will not be bought or sold, men who in their inmost souls are true and

honest, men who do not fear to call sin by its right name, men whose conscience is as true to duty as the needle to the pole, men who will stand for the right though the heavens fall.” –*Education*, p. 57.

4. What can happen to a person’s conscience? Why is this so dangerous? Titus 1:15; 1 Timothy 4:1.

“Conscience is the voice of God, heard amid the conflict of human passions;...”

“When a person once neglects to heed the invitations, reproofs, and warnings of the Spirit of God, his conscience becomes seared, and the next time he is admonished, it will be more difficult to yield obedience than before. And thus with every repetition. Conscience is the voice of God, heard amid the conflict of human passions; when it is resisted, the Spirit of God is grieved....

“But man at first resists a motion of the Spirit of God, and, having once resisted, it is less difficult to do so the second time, less the third, and far less the fourth. Then comes the harvest to be reaped from the seed of unbelief and resistance. Oh, what a harvest of sinful indulgences is preparing for the sickle!” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 120.

5. What is the relationship between one’s conscience and God’s will as expressed in His law? Psalm 40:7, 8.

“In the precepts of His holy law, God has given a perfect rule of life; and He has declared that until the close of time this law, unchanged in a single jot or tittle, is to maintain its claim upon human beings....

“God has made known His will, and it is folly for man to question that which has gone out of His lips. After Infinite Wisdom has spoken, there can be no doubtful questions for man to settle, no wavering possibilities for him to adjust. All that is required of him is a frank, earnest concurrence in the expressed will of God. Obedience is the highest dictate of reason as well as of conscience.” –*The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 505, 506.

6. Where did Satan’s misuse of freedom of conscience lead him? How are people in danger because of similar attitudes today? Revelation 12:7, 9; 1 Peter 2:15, 16.

“Thus stubborn and defiant in their disloyalty, seeking vainly to overthrow the government of God, yet blasphemously claiming to be themselves the innocent victims of oppressive power, the archrebel and all his sympathizers were at last banished from Heaven.

“The same spirit that prompted rebellion in Heaven, still inspires rebellion on earth. Satan has continued with men the same policy which he pursued with the angels. His spirit now reigns in the children of disobedience. Like him they seek to break down the restraints of the law of God, and promise men liberty through transgression of its precepts.” –*The Great Controversy*, p. 500.

7. How did Paul originally follow his own ideas? How perilous is such a course? Acts 26:9; Romans 10:1, 2.

“Let us not seek for a way which is easier than the path our Redeemer has travelled before us. How incompetent are you, with all your boasted wisdom, to guide yourself! How liable are you to follow the dictates of a deceived conscience, to run in the way of error, and drag others with you!

“Your natural temperament is such that submission and obedience to God’s requirements are very hard. Your unbounded self-confidence, your prejudices, and your feelings easily lead you to choose a wrong path. Christ will be to you an infallible guide, if you will choose Him before your own blind judgment.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 3, pp. 457, 458.

8. How can young people discover true freedom and liberty? Ecclesiastes 11:9; 1 Corinthians 8:9.

“The youth have an inborn love of liberty; they desire freedom; and they need to understand that these inestimable blessings are to be enjoyed only in obedience to the law of God. This law is the preserver of true freedom and liberty. It points out and prohibits those things that degrade and enslave, and thus to the obedient it affords protection from the power of evil.

“The psalmist says: ‘I will walk at liberty; for I seek Thy precepts.’ ‘Thy testimonies also are my delight and my counselors.’” –*Education*, p. 291.

9. What kind of freedom is repulsive to a Christian? Why is this? Ecclesiastes 7:29; Psalm 94:11; Jeremiah 17:9.

“We cannot disregard one word, however trifling it may seem to us, and be safe.”

“Were men free to depart from the Lord’s requirements and to set up a standard of duty for themselves, there would be a variety of standards to suit different minds and the government would be taken out of the Lord’s hands. The will of man would be made supreme, and the high and holy will of God—His purpose of love toward His creatures—would be dishonored, disrespected.

“Whenever men choose their own way, they place themselves in controversy with God. They will have no place in the kingdom of heaven, for they are at war with the very principles of heaven. In disregarding the will of God, they are placing themselves on the side of Satan, the enemy of God and man.... We cannot disregard one word, however trifling it may seem to us, and be safe.” --*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, pp. 51, 52.

10. How are God-given freedom and liberty of conscience safely practiced?
Galatians 5:13.

“As a redeemed, free moral agent, ransomed by an infinite price, God calls upon you to assert your liberty, and employ your God-given powers as a free subject of the kingdom of heaven. Be no longer under the thralldom of sin, but as a loyal subject to the King of kings, prove your loyalty to God.

“Through Jesus Christ show that you are worthy of the sacred trust with which the Lord has honored you in bestowing upon you life and grace. You are to refuse to be in subjection to the power of evil.... The law of God is steadfast, unalterable; for it is the expression of the character of Jehovah. Make up your mind that you will not by word or influence cast the least dishonor upon its authority.” --*Messages to Young People*, pp. 29, 30.



Compulsion and Intolerance vs. Love

1. What happens when one yields to the power of evil? Luke 11:21, 22.

“Yield not to the power of the tempter. He will come as a strong man armed; but give him no advantage. Nerve yourselves for duty, and dispute every inch of ground. Instead of retreating, advance; instead of becoming weak and nerveless, brace yourselves for the conflict. God calls on you to engage with all your powers against sin in every form. Put on the whole armor of God, and keep your eye steadily fixed on the Captain of your salvation; for there is danger ahead. Follow no false colors, but watch the banner of our holy faith, and be found where that waves, even though it be in the thickest of the fight.”
 –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 309.

2. Are human beings, by nature, free men and women, or slaves to someone? Who is their master? Romans 7:14, 15, 22-24.

“Every soul that refuses to give himself to God is under the control of another power. He is not his own. He may talk of freedom, but he is in the most abject slavery. He is not allowed to see the beauty of truth, for his mind is under the control of Satan. While he flatters himself that he is following the dictates of his own judgment, he obeys the will of the prince of darkness. Christ came to break the shackles of sin-slavery from the soul.” –*The Desire of Ages*, p. 466.

3. How does Satan treat his subjects? What methods does he employ? Isaiah 14:16, 17.

“For six thousand years, Satan’s work of rebellion has ‘made the earth to tremble.’ He has ‘made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof.’ And ‘he opened not the house of his prisoners.’ For six thousand years his prison house has received God’s people, and he would have held them captive forever, but Christ has broken his bonds, and set the prisoners free....

“God never forces the will or the conscience; but Satan’s constant resort to gain control of those whom he cannot otherwise seduce—is compulsion by cruelty. Through fear or force he endeavors to rule the conscience, and to secure homage to himself. To accomplish this, he works through both religious and secular authorities, moving them to the enforcement of human laws in defiance of the law of God.” —*The Great Controversy*, pp. 659, 591.

4. To what does the Bible compare unbelievers and unbelieving nations? Psalm 49:12, 20; Daniel 7:3-7, 17.

“Earthly governments prevail by physical force; they maintain their dominion by war; but the founder of the new kingdom is the Prince of Peace. The Holy Spirit represents worldly kingdoms under the symbol of fierce beasts of prey; but Christ is ‘the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.’ In His plan of government there is no employment of brute force to compel the conscience.” —*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 77.

5. To what did the Jews and other churches resort? Why? Matthew 27:1, 2; John 18:35.

“This is what the Jews did in the days of Christ and what the church has done ever since whenever she has lost the grace of Christ. Finding herself destitute of the power of love, she has reached out for the strong arm of the state to enforce her dogmas and execute her decrees. Here is the secret of all religious laws that have ever been enacted, and the secret of all persecution from the days of Abel to our own time.

“Christ does not drive but draws men unto Him.”

“Christ does not drive but draws men unto Him. The only compulsion which He employs is the constraint of love. When the church begins to seek for the support of secular power, it is evident that she is devoid of the power of Christ—the constraint of divine love.” —*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, pp. 126, 127.

6. But how does Jesus relate Himself to His children? John 8:32, 36.

“It is no part of Christ’s mission to compel men to receive Him. It is Satan, and men actuated by his spirit, that seek to compel the conscience. Under a pretense of zeal for righteousness, men who are confederate with evil angels bring suffering upon their fellowmen,

in order to convert them to their ideas of religion; but Christ is ever showing mercy, ever seeking to win by the revealing of His love. He can admit no rival in the soul, nor accept of partial service; but He desires only voluntary service, the willing surrender of the heart under the constraint of love. There can be no more conclusive evidence that we possess the spirit of Satan than the disposition to hurt and destroy those who do not appreciate our work, or who act contrary to our ideas.” –*The Desire of Ages*, p. 487.

7. Instead of using force, to what does Christ appeal? Revelation 22:17; John 7:37; Luke 14:23.

“The command given in the parable, to ‘compel them to come in,’ has often been misinterpreted. It has been regarded as teaching that we should force men to receive the gospel. But it denotes rather the urgency of the invitation, and the effectiveness of the inducements presented. The gospel never employs force in bringing men to Christ. Its message is, ‘Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters.’ ‘The Spirit and the bride say, Come.... And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.’ Isaiah 55:1; Revelation 22:17.” –*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 235.

8. How does the True Shepherd guide His sheep? Why? 1 Peter 5:2, 3; John 10:11, 14, 27.

“The Eastern shepherd does not drive his sheep. He depends not upon force or fear; but going before, he calls them. They know his voice, and obey the call. So does the Saviour-Shepherd with His sheep....

“It is not the fear of punishment, or the hope of everlasting reward, that leads the disciples of Christ to follow Him. They behold the Saviour’s matchless love, revealed throughout His pilgrimage on earth, from the manger of Bethlehem to Calvary’s cross, and the sight of Him attracts, it softens and subdues the soul. Love awakens in the heart of the beholder. They hear His voice, and they follow Him.” –*The Desire of Ages*, p. 480.

9. Should we rely on force or authority of any kind? How does God deal with us? Matthew 20:25-28; 1 John 4:19.

“He desires that the creatures of His hands shall love Him because He is worthy of love.”

“God does not force the will or judgment of any. He takes no pleasure in a slavish obedience. He desires that the creatures of His hands shall love Him because He is worthy of love. He would have them obey Him because they have an intelligent appreciation of His wisdom, justice, and benevolence. And all who have a just conception of these qualities will love Him because they are drawn toward Him in admiration of His attributes.

“The principles of kindness, mercy, and love, taught and exemplified by our Saviour, are a transcript of the will and character of God.” –*The Great Controversy*, pp. 541, 542.

10. What is not the correct attitude for choosing one’s friends? Luke 6:26; John 15:18, 19.

“Why is it, then, that persecution seems in a great degree to slumber? The only reason is, that the church has conformed to the world’s standard, and therefore awakens no opposition.... 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.



1. In Protestant countries, what opinion is freely expressed? Was this prophesied? Revelation 13:3.

“Romanism is now regarded by Protestants with far greater favor than in former years. In those countries where Catholicism is not in the ascendency, and the papists are taking a conciliatory course in order to gain influence, there is an increasing indifference concerning the doctrines that separate the reformed churches from the papal hierarchy; the opinion is gaining ground, that, after all, we do not differ so widely upon vital points as has been supposed, and that a little concession on our part will bring us into a better understanding with Rome.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 563.

2. What does Catholicism declare? How do Protestants consider this idea? Revelation 13:4.

“The defenders of popery declare that the church has been maligned; and the Protestant world are inclined to accept the statement. Many urge that it is unjust to judge the church of today by the abominations and absurdities that marked her reign during the centuries of ignorance and darkness. They excuse her horrible cruelty as the result of the barbarism of the times, and plead that the influence of modern civilization has changed her sentiments.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 563.

3. Will Rome change or admit its past cruelty? How should its acknowledgments be considered? Psalm 94:20, 21.

“The papal church will never relinquish her claim to infallibility. All that she has done in her persecution of those who reject her dogmas, she holds to be right; and would she not repeat the same acts, should the opportunity be presented? Let the restraints now imposed by secular governments be removed, and Rome be reinstated in her

former power, and there would speedily be a revival of her tyranny and persecution....

"The pacific tone of Rome in the United States does not imply a change of heart. She is tolerant where she is helpless. Says Bishop O'Connor: 'Religious liberty is merely endured until the opposite can be carried into effect without peril to the Catholic world.'" —*The Great Controversy*, pp. 564, 565.

4. At times, what may happen to the truth? How careful should one be with everything that he hears? Isaiah 59:14, 15; Daniel 8:12.

"... The truth, received in the love of it, sanctifies the soul of the receiver;..."

"The position that it is of no consequence what men believe is one of Satan's most successful deceptions. He knows that the truth, received in the love of it, sanctifies the soul of the receiver; therefore he is constantly seeking to substitute false theories, fables, another gospel. From the beginning, the servants of God have contended against false teachers, not merely as vicious men, but as inculcators of falsehoods that were fatal to the soul. Elijah, Jeremiah, Paul, firmly and fearlessly opposed those who were turning men from the word of God. That liberality which regards a correct religious faith as unimportant, found no favor with these holy defenders of the truth." —*The Great Controversy*, p. 520.

5. What happens when truth is rejected? How dangerous is this? Jeremiah 9:3; 2 Thessalonians 2:10, 11.

"Those who are unwilling to accept the plain, cutting truths of the Bible, are continually seeking for pleasing fables that will quiet the conscience.... Satan is ready to supply the heart's desire, and he palms off his deceptions in the place of truth. It was thus that the papacy gained its power over the minds of men; and by rejection of the truth because it involves a cross, Protestants are following the same path. All who neglect the word of God to study convenience and policy, that they may not be at variance with the world, will be left to receive damnable heresy for religious truth. Every conceivable form of error will be accepted by those who willfully reject the truth. He who looks with horror upon one deception will readily receive another." —*The Great Controversy*, p. 523.

6. What call will God's children heed when others reject the truth? Revelation 18:4; Amos 3:3.

“No longer have the hosts of evil power to keep the church captive; for ‘Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city,’ which hath ‘made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication;’ and to spiritual Israel is given the message, ‘Come out of her, My people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.’ As the captive exiles heeded the message, ‘Flee out of the midst of Babylon,’ and were restored to the land of promise, so those who fear God today are heeding the message to withdraw from spiritual Babylon, and soon they are to stand as trophies of divine grace in the earth made new, the heavenly Canaan.” –*Prophets and Kings*, p. 715.

7. What will characterize the actions of the world’s churches in the future? What will be the result? Isaiah 8:9, 10, 12, 13; 2:3.

“We have need now for more than human wisdom in reading and searching the Scriptures;...”

“The professed Protestant world will form a confederacy with the man of sin, and the church and the world will be in corrupt harmony.

“Here the great crisis is coming upon the world. The Scriptures teach that popery is to regain its lost supremacy, and that the fires of persecution will be rekindled through the time-serving concessions of the so-called Protestant world. In this time of peril we can stand only as we have the truth and the power of God.... We have need now for more than human wisdom in reading and searching the Scriptures; and if we come to God’s word with humble hearts, He will raise up a standard for us against the lawless element.” –*Selected Messages*, book 2, pp. 367, 368.

8. What role will ecumenism play at the end of time? Revelation 13:12.

“When Protestantism shall stretch her hand across the gulf to grasp the hand of the Roman power, when she shall reach over the abyss to clasp hands with spiritualism, when, under the influence of this threefold union, our country shall repudiate every principle of its constitution as a Protestant and Republican government, and shall make provision for the propagation of papal falsehoods and delusions, then we may know that the time has come for the marvelous working of Satan, and that the end is near.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 451.

9. What compromises are common among Catholics and Protestants? Psalm 83:5; Isaiah 28:15.

The following statement shows the inconsistency of the thinking of religious men today. *The Ecumenical Revolution*, by R. McAfee Brown, p. 131, states: “Roman Catholics have agreed that the Reformation was tragic, but few of them have seen that it was necessary. Protestants have agreed that the Reformation was necessary, but few have felt with deep and lasting pain its tragedy.... Protestants now see that the Reformation was a tragedy, though it was necessary; and Roman Catholics see that it was necessary, though it was tragic.”

10. What will God’s children see in present religious conditions? What will they therefore do? Matthew 24:33; Luke 21:28.

“Now is the time for the last warning to be given. There is a special power in the presentation of the truth at the present time; but how long will it continue? Only a little while. If there was ever a crisis, it is now.

“All are now deciding their eternal destiny. Men need to be aroused to realize the solemnity of the time, the nearness of the day when human probation shall be ended....

“Not all in regard to this matter is yet understood, nor will it be understood until the unrolling of the scroll; but a most solemn work is to be accomplished in our world.” –Testimonies for the Church, vol. 6, pp. 16, 17.



1. What two powers are striving for the mastery in this world? Can anyone stay neutral in this conflict? Revelation 12:7-9; 1 John 3:8.

“... Unless we do yield ourselves to the control of Christ, we shall be dominated by the wicked one. We must inevitably be under the control of the one or the other of the two great powers that are contending for the supremacy of the world. It is not necessary for us deliberately to choose the service of the kingdom of darkness in order to come under its dominion. We have only to neglect to ally ourselves with the kingdom of light.... 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.” –*The Desire of Ages*, p. 324.

2. What infinite contrast exists between the natures of God and Satan? Psalm 90:2; Ezekiel 28:15.

“In the word, God is spoken of as ‘the everlasting God.’ This name embraces past, present, and future. God is from everlasting to everlasting. He is the Eternal One.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 8, p. 270.

“Lucifer had been the covering cherub. He had stood in the light of God’s presence. He had been the highest of all created beings, and had been foremost in revealing God’s purposes to the universe.” –*The Desire of Ages*, p. 758.

3. Who alone is entitled to worship? What is man forbidden to do? Exodus 34:14; 20:1-3.

“Jehovah, the eternal, self-existent, uncreated One, Himself the Source and Sustainer of all, is alone entitled to supreme reverence and worship. Man is forbidden to give to any other object the first place in his affections or his service. Whatever we cherish that tends

to lessen our love for God or to interfere with the service due Him, of that do we make a god.” –*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 305.

4. Who is seeking God’s prerogative for himself? How successful is he at this? Matthew 4:8-10.

“Satan offers to men the kingdoms of the world if they will yield to him the supremacy. Many do this, and sacrifice heaven. It is better to die than to sin; better to want than to defraud; better to hunger than to lie.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p.495.

“It is better to die than to sin; better to want than to defraud; better to hunger than to lie.”

“... Satan still presents to men and women the same scene that he presented to Christ. In a wonderful manner he causes the kingdoms of the world in their glory to pass before them. These he promises to all who will fall down and worship him. Thus he seeks to bring men under his dominion.

“Satan is working to the utmost to make himself a god, and to destroy all who oppose his power. And today the world is bowing before him. His power is received as the power of God.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 14.

5. What sign distinguishes true worshipers from the false? How important is it to recognize and value this sign? Exodus 20:8-11; Psalm 111:4.

“The Scripture says, ‘He made His wonderful works to be remembered.’

“And since the Sabbath is a memorial of the work of creation, it is a token of the love and power of Christ.

“The Sabbath calls our thoughts to nature, and brings us into communion with the Creator. In the song of the bird, the sighing of the trees, and the music of the sea, we still may hear His voice....

“No other institution which was committed to the Jews tended so fully to distinguish them from surrounding nations as did the Sabbath. God designed that its observance should designate them as His worshipers. It was to be a token of their separation from idolatry, and their connection with the true God.” –*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 281, 283.

6. How do created beings reveal that they love God? How are they thus blessed? John 14:15, 21; 15:10.

“Without obedience to His commandments, no worship can be pleasing to God....

“The duty to worship God is based upon the fact that He is the Creator, and that to Him all other beings owe their existence. And wherever, in the Bible, His claim to reverence and worship, above the gods of the heathen, is presented, there is cited the evidence of His creative power.... And the holy beings who worship God in Heaven state, as the reason why their homage is due to Him, ‘Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for Thou hast created all things.’” –*The Great Controversy*, pp. 436, 437.

7. What powers will fight for the supremacy in the coming crisis? Revelation 14:6, 7; 13:11, 12.

“This message, if heeded, will call the attention of every nation and kindred and tongue and people to a close examination of the word, and to the true light in regard to the power that has changed the seventh-day Sabbath to a spurious sabbath. The only true God has been forsaken, His law has been discarded, His sacred Sabbath institution has been trampled in the dust by the man of sin. The fourth commandment, so plain and explicit, has been ignored. The Sabbath memorial, declaring who the living God is, the Creator of the heavens and the earth, has been torn down, and a spurious sabbath has been given to the world in its place. Thus a breach has been made in the law of God. A false sabbath could not be a true standard.” –*Selected Messages*, book 2, pp. 105, 106.

8. What terrible threats are pronounced by both sides in this life-and-death struggle? Revelation 14:9, 10; 13:15-17.

“The most fearful threatening ever addressed to mortals is contained in the third angel’s message. That must be a terrible sin which calls down the wrath of God unmingled with mercy. Men are not to be left in darkness concerning this important matter; the warning against this sin is to be given to the world before the visitation of God’s judgments, that all may know why they are to be inflicted, and have opportunity to escape them....

“When the protection of human laws shall be withdrawn from those who honor the law of God, there will be, in different lands, a simultaneous movement for their destruction. As the time appointed in the decree draws near, the people will conspire to root out the hated sect. It will be determined to strike in one night a decisive blow, which shall utterly silence the voice of dissent and reproof.” –*The Great Controversy*, pp. 449, 450, 635.

9. What will be the result of this final conflict? Isaiah 30:29, 30.

“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.” –*The Great Controversy*, pp. 635, 636.

10. For one to be able to pass through the coming crisis and live, what decision will he make today? 1 Kings 18:21.

“The Lord abhors indifference and disloyalty in a time of crisis...”

“The Lord abhors indifference and disloyalty in a time of crisis in His work.... His special blessing accompanies the labors of men of action; men who will not be swerved from the straight line of duty, but who with divine energy will inquire, ‘Who is on the Lord’s side?’ men who will not stop merely with the inquiry, but who will demand that those who choose to identify themselves with the people of God shall step forward and reveal unmistakably their allegiance to the King of kings and Lord of lords.... Fidelity to God is their motto.” –*Prophets and Kings*, p. 148.



1. How is preparation for the coming crisis obtained? Proverbs 22:3; 27:12.

“My brethren, do you realize that your own salvation, as well as the destiny of other souls, depends upon the preparation you now make for the trial before us? Have you that intensity of zeal, that piety and devotion, which will enable you to stand when opposition shall be brought against you? If God has ever spoken by me, the time will come when you will be brought before councils, and every position of truth which you hold will be severely criticized. The time that so many are allowing to go to waste should be devoted to the charge that God has given us, of preparing for the approaching crisis.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 717.

2. What spiritual condition will God bring about in His people—with their full cooperation and longing petition? Joel 2:12-14.

“As great light has been given, God expects corresponding zeal, faithfulness, and devotion on the part of His people.”

“There is the most imperative necessity of urging the injunction of Christ upon the minds and hearts of all believers, men and women, youth and children: ‘Search the Scriptures.’ Study your Bible as you have never studied it before.... As great light has been given, God expects corresponding zeal, faithfulness, and devotion on the part of His people. There must be more spirituality, a deeper consecration to God, and a zeal in His work that has never yet been reached. Much time should be spent in prayer, that our garments of character may be washed and made white in the blood of the Lamb.

“Especially should we, with unwavering faith, seek God for grace and power to be given to His people now.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 717.

3. Why is the present time so solemn and critical? What great desire will God fulfill? Daniel 7:9, 10; 1 Peter 4:17.

“Our acts, our words, even our most secret motives, all have their weight in deciding our destiny for weal or woe.”

“At the time appointed for the judgment—the close of the 2300 days, in 1844—began the work of investigation and blotting out of sins....

“Sins that have not been repented of and forsaken will not be pardoned and blotted out of the books of record, but will stand to witness against the sinner in the day of God....

“How solemn is the thought! Day after day, passing into eternity, bears its burden of records for the books of heaven. Words once spoken, deeds once done, can never be recalled. Angels have registered both the good and the evil. The mightiest conqueror upon the earth cannot call back the record of even a single day. Our acts, our words, even our most secret motives, all have their weight in deciding our destiny for weal or woe. Though they may be forgotten by us, they will bear their testimony to justify or to condemn.” —*The Great Controversy*, pp. 486, 487.

4. Why is faithfulness in small Christian duties so important? Luke 16:10; Matthew 5:18.

“By unfaithfulness in even the smallest duties, man robs his Maker of the service which is His due. This unfaithfulness reacts upon himself.... Because he is not guided by right principles in little things, he fails to obey God in the great matters which he regards as his special work. The defects cherished in dealing with life’s minor details pass into more important affairs. He acts on the principles to which he has accustomed himself. Thus actions repeated form habits, habits form character, and by the character our destiny for time and for eternity is decided.” —*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 356.

5. What must one receive to be able to stand in the last crisis hour? Why? Matthew 5:4; Ezekiel 9:4; Revelation 7:3.

“At the time when the danger and depression of the church are greatest, the little company who are standing in the light will be sighing and crying for the abominations that are done in the land. But more especially will their prayers arise in behalf of the church, because its members are doing after the manner of the world....

“These sighing, crying ones had been holding forth the words of life; they had reproved, counseled, and entreated....

“In the time when His wrath shall go forth in judgments, these humble, devoted followers of Christ will be distinguished from the rest of the world by their soul-anguish, which is expressed in lamentation and weeping, reproofs and warnings. While others try to throw a cloak

over the existing evil, and excuse the great wickedness everywhere prevalent, those who have a zeal for God's honor and a love for souls, will not hold their peace to obtain favor of any....

"The class who do not feel grieved over their own spiritual declension, nor mourn over the sins of others, will be left without the seal of God."
–*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, pp. 209-211.

6. What tests and trials met victoriously today are the best practice for tomorrow? What trials did faithful believers pass through in the past? Jeremiah 9:7; 2 Corinthians 10:4.

"I was shown that God's people, who are His peculiar treasure, cannot engage in this perplexing war, for it is opposed to every principle of their faith. In the army they cannot obey the truth and at the same time obey the requirements of their officers. There would be a continual violation of conscience." –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol.1, p. 361.

"The contest is between the commandments of God and the commandments of men."

"Fearful tests and trials await the people of God. The spirit of war is stirring the nations from one end of the earth to the other. But in the midst of the time of trouble that is coming—a time of trouble such as has not been since there was a nation—God's chosen people will stand unmoved." –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 9, p. 17.

"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."
–*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 81.

7. What may one expect in the future if he is not faithful now? What is the reason for this? Jeremiah 12:5; Mark 14:29-31.

"Peter did not know his own danger. Self-confidence misled him. He thought himself able to withstand temptation; but in a few short hours that test came, and with cursing and swearing he denied his Lord....

"The evil that led to Peter's fall, and that shut out the Pharisee from communion with God, is proving the ruin of thousands today. There is nothing so offensive to God, or so dangerous to the human soul, as pride and self-sufficiency. Of all sins it is the most hopeless, the most incurable." –*Christ's Object Lessons*, pp. 152, 153.

8. What other trying experience is a means of preparation for the coming test? Amos 9:9; Luke 22:31.

“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.”

“I saw some, with strong faith and agonizing cries, pleading with God. Their countenances were pale and marked with deep anxiety, expressive of their internal struggle. Firmness and great earnestness were expressed in their countenances;... large drops of perspiration fell from their foreheads.

“Their only safety was in keeping their eyes directed upward. Angels of God had charge over His people, and as the poisonous atmosphere of evil angels was pressed around these anxious ones, the heavenly angels were continually wafting their wings over them to scatter the thick darkness....

“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 is what will cause a shaking among God’s people....

“The solemn testimony upon which the destiny of the church hangs has been lightly esteemed, if not entirely disregarded.” –*Early Writings*, pp. 269, 270.

9. What important message will a person heed if he truly recognizes his own condition? Revelation 3:14-17.

“I was shown that the testimony to the Laodiceans applies to God’s people at the present time, and the reason it has not accomplished a greater work is because of the hardness of their hearts. But God has given the message time to do its work.... It is designed to arouse the people of God, to discover to them their backslidings, and to lead to zealous repentance, that they may be favored with the presence of Jesus, and be fitted for the loud cry of the third angel.... If the counsel of the True Witness had been fully heeded, God would have wrought for His people in greater power....

“God will prove His people. Jesus bears patiently with them, and does not spew them out of His mouth in a moment. Said the angel, ‘God is weighing His people.’...

“Those who come up to every point, and stand every test, and overcome, be the price what it may, have heeded the counsel of the

True Witness, and they will receive the latter rain, and thus be fitted for translation.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol.1, pp. 186-188.

10. What alone can remedy this situation? What blessing will come from its acceptance? Revelation 3:18-20.

“This message must be borne to a lukewarm church by God’s servants. It must arouse His people from their security and dangerous deception in regard to their real standing before God. This testimony, if received, will arouse to action, and lead to self-abasement and confession of sins....

“... The pointed testimony must live in the church.”

“The people of God must see their wrongs, and arouse to zealous repentance, and a putting away of those sins which have brought them into such a deplorable condition of poverty, blindness, wretchedness, and fearful deception. I was shown that the pointed testimony must live in the church. This alone will answer to the message to the Laodiceans. Wrongs must be reproved, sin must be called sin, and iniquity must be met promptly and decidedly, and put away from us as a people.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 3, pp. 259, 260.



The Latter Rain and the Loud Cry

1. How will God complete the work that He has begun? Zechariah 4:6; 10:1.

“It is true that in the time of the end, when God’s work in the earth is closing, the earnest efforts put forth by consecrated believers under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, are to be accompanied by special tokens of divine favor....

“But near the close of earth’s harvest, a special bestowal of spiritual grace is promised to prepare the church for the coming of the Son of man. This outpouring of the Spirit is likened to the falling of the latter rain; and it is for this added power that Christians are to send their petitions to the Lord of the harvest ‘in the time of the latter rain.’” —*The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 54, 55.

2. What will characterize His people who receive the final outpouring of the Holy Spirit to carry out their responsibilities? What will happen? Joel 2:23; James 5:7.

“Many have in a great measure failed to receive the former rain. They have not obtained all the benefits that God has thus provided for them. They expect that the lack will be supplied by the latter rain. When the richest abundance of grace shall be bestowed, they intend to open their hearts to receive it. They are making a terrible mistake. The work that God has begun in the human heart in giving His light and knowledge must be continually going forward. Every individual must realize his own necessity. The heart must be emptied of every defilement, and cleansed for the indwelling of the Spirit. It was by the confession and forsaking of sin, by earnest prayer and consecration of themselves to God, that the early disciples prepared for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. The same work, only in a greater degree, must be done now.” —*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 507.

“The heart must
be emptied
of every
defilement...”

3. Why will even the smallest neglect of today’s preparation be seen tomorrow to be a deadly mistake? Ephesians 5:27; 2 Peter 3:14.

"I saw that many were neglecting the preparation so needful and were looking to the time of 'refreshing' and the 'latter rain' to fit them to stand in the day of the Lord and to live in His sight. Oh, how many I saw in the time of trouble without a shelter! They had neglected the needful preparation; therefore they could not receive the refreshing that all must have to fit them to live in the sight of a holy God. Those who refuse to be hewed by the prophets and fail to purify their souls in obeying the whole truth, and who are willing to believe that their condition is far better than it really is, will come up to the time of the falling of the plagues, and then see that they needed to be hewed and squared for the building. But there will be no time then to do it and no Mediator to plead their cause before the Father...."

"Let all remember that God is holy and that none but holy beings can ever dwell in His presence." –*Early Writings*, p. 71.

4. What is the most important prerequisite for receiving the latter rain? Acts 1:14; 2:1; John 17:11, 21, 23.

"Study the second chapter of Acts. In the early church the Spirit of God wrought mightily through those who were harmoniously united. On the day of Pentecost they were all with one accord in one place." –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 9, p. 196.

"The members of Christ's church have the power to thwart the purpose of the adversary of souls."

"As we approach the last crisis, it is of vital moment that harmony and unity exist among the Lord's instrumentalities.... The members of Christ's church have the power to thwart the purpose of the adversary of souls. At such a time as this let them not be found at variance with one another or with any of the Lord's workers. Amidst the general discord, let there be one place where harmony and unity exist, because the Bible is made the guide of life." –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 7, p. 182.

5. Can we expect miracles to happen now? Who will bring deep conviction to the honest in heart? Acts 2:4; Mark 16:17, 18.

"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 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.... 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.” –*The Great Controversy*, p. 612.

6. Who will come to give power to the third angel? For what purpose? Revelation 18:1.

“Then I saw another mighty angel commissioned to descend to the earth, to unite his voice with the third angel, and give power and force to his message. Great power and glory were imparted to the angel, and as he descended, the earth was lightened with his glory.” –*Early Writings*, p. 277.

“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 worldwide extent and unwonted power is here foretold....

“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 as 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*, pp. 610, 611.

7. What point will all of the fallen churches reach? Revelation 18:2, 3.

“This scripture points forward to the time when the announcement of the fall of Babylon, as made by the second angel of Revelation 14, 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. A terrible condition of the religious world is here described. With every rejection of truth, the minds of the people will become darker, their hearts more stubborn, until they are entrenched in an infidel hardihood. In defiance of the warnings which God has given, they will continue to trample upon one of the precepts of the decalogue, until they are led to persecute those who hold it sacred. Christ is set at nought in the contempt placed upon His word and His people.” –*The Great Controversy*, p. 603.

8. What call will be heeded by all who are honest in heart in the fallen churches? What is the very last invitation? Revelation 18:4, 5.

“But God still has a people in Babylon; and before the visitation of His judgments, these faithful ones must be called out, that they ‘partake not of her sins, and receive not of her plagues.’ Hence the movement symbolized by the angel coming down from heaven, lightening the

earth with his glory, and crying mightily with a strong voice, announcing the sins of Babylon. In connection with his message the call is heard, 'Come out of her, My people.' These announcements, uniting with the third angel's message, constitute the final warning to be given to the inhabitants of the earth." —*The Great Controversy*, p. 604.

9. What message is the basis for the loud cry? Explain this. Jeremiah 23:6; 2 Corinthians 5:21.

"Careful study of the instruction given by the Spirit of prophecy leads to the deep conviction that the coming of the message of Righteousness by Faith at the Minneapolis Conference, was a signal providence of God—a providence designed to initiate the beginning of a new era in the finishing of His work. The following statement, written just four years after the Minneapolis Conference in 1888, affords basis for this conclusion: 'The time of test is just upon us, for the loud cry of the third angel has already begun in the revelation of the righteousness of Christ, the sin-pardoning Redeemer. This is the beginning of the light of the angel whose glory shall fill the whole earth.'" —(*Review and Herald*, November 22, 1892) Arthur G. Daniells, *Christ Our Righteousness*, p. 56.

10. What is the best way to prepare to join in the latter rain and the loud cry? How dangerous is it to put off obedience to the warnings? 2 Corinthians 6:14-17.

"The word of the Lord, spoken through His servants, is received by many with questionings and fears. And many will defer their obedience to the warning and reproofs given, waiting till every shadow of uncertainty is removed from their minds. The unbelief that demands perfect knowledge will never yield to the evidence that God is pleased to give. He requires of His people faith that rests upon the weight of evidence, not upon perfect knowledge. Those followers of Christ who accept the light that God sends them, must obey the voice of God speaking to them when there are many other voices crying out against it. It requires discernment to distinguish the voice of God.

"Those who will not act when the Lord calls upon them, but who wait for more certain evidence and more favorable opportunities, will walk in darkness, for the light will be withdrawn. The evidence given one day, if rejected, may never be repeated." —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 3, p. 258.

1. When the last soul is gathered in, or sealed, what will happen? Revelation 7:4; 16:17; 22:11.

"He requires of His people faith that rests upon the weight of evidence, not upon perfect knowledge."

"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 that 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.' And all the angelic host laid off their crowns as Jesus made the solemn declaration, 'He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.'

"Every case had been decided for life or death." —*Early Writings*, pp. 279, 280.

2. What will no longer be available? Why? Revelation 16:1; 14:10.

"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. All the judgments upon men, prior to the close of probation, have been mingled with mercy. The pleading blood of Christ has shielded the sinner from receiving the full measure of his guilt; but in the final judgment, wrath is poured out unmixed with mercy.

"In that day, multitudes will desire the shelter of God's mercy which they have so long despised." —*The Great Controversy*, pp. 628, 629.

3. What will the Lord be to His people on the final day? What will be restored? Joel 3:16, last part.

"But amid the tempest of divine judgment, the children of God will have no cause for fear. 'The Lord will be the hope of His people, and the strength of the children of Israel.' The day that brings terror and destruction to the transgressors of God's law, will bring to the obedient, 'joy unspeakable, and full of glory.'...

"The great plan of redemption results in bringing back the world into God's favor. All that was lost by sin is restored." *—Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 341, 342.

4. What shield will protect God's children during that most difficult time? Psalm 91:1-8; Isaiah 41:17.

"... Angels will shield the righteous, and supply their wants."

"While the wicked are dying from hunger and pestilence, angels will shield the righteous, and supply their wants. To him that 'walketh righteously' is the promise, 'Bread shall be given him; his waters shall be sure.' 'When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst, I the Lord will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them.' Isaiah 33:16; 41:17." *—The Great Controversy*, p. 629.

5. To what is this time compared? Why will it be so severe? Jeremiah 30:7; Genesis 32:24-26.

"Yet to human sight it will appear that the people of God must soon seal their testimony with their blood, as did the martyrs before them. They themselves begin to fear that the Lord has left them to fall by the hand of their enemies. It is a time of fearful agony. Day and night they cry unto God for deliverance. The wicked exult, and the jeering cry is heard, 'Where now is your faith? Why does not God deliver you out of our hands if you are indeed His people?'... Like Jacob, all are wrestling with God. Their countenances express their internal struggle. Paleness sits upon every face. Yet they cease not their earnest intercession." *—The Great Controversy*, p. 630.

6. To what extent will the believers suffer persecution? Revelation 13:15; Daniel 12:1.

"As the decree issued by the various rulers of Christendom against commandment-keepers shall withdraw the protection of government, and abandon them to those who desire their destruction, the people of God will flee from the cities and villages and associate together in

companies, dwelling in the most desolate and solitary places....” –*The Great Controversy*, p. 626.

7. Will God ever forsake His faithful children? Isaiah 49:15; 41:10, 17.

“Will the Lord forget His people in this trying hour? Did He forget faithful Noah when judgments were visited upon the antediluvian world? Did He forget Lot when the fire came down from heaven to consume the cities of the plain? Did He forget Joseph surrounded by idolaters in Egypt? Did He forget Elijah when the oath of Jezebel threatened him with the fate of the prophets of Baal? Did He forget Jeremiah in the dark and dismal pit of his prison-house? Did He forget the three worthies in the fiery furnace? or Daniel in the den of lions?...

“Though enemies may thrust them into prison, yet dungeon walls cannot cut off the communication between their souls and Christ.” –*The Great Controversy*, pp. 626, 627.

8. What day will then come upon the wicked? What will it be like? Isaiah 66:15, 16; 63:2-6.

“God’s judgments will be visited upon those who are seeking to oppress and destroy His people. His long forbearance with the wicked emboldens men in transgression, but their punishment is nonetheless certain and terrible because it is long delayed.... The severity of the retribution awaiting the transgressor may be judged by the Lord’s reluctance to execute justice. The nation with which He bears long, and which He will not smite until it has filled up the measure of its iniquity in God’s account, will finally drink the cup of wrath unmingled with mercy.” –*The Great Controversy*, p. 627.

9. What will that day bring to God’s people? Isaiah 25:9; Luke 21:27, 28.

“It is at midnight that God manifests His power for the deliverance of His people. The sun appears, shining in its strength. Signs and wonders follow in quick succession. The wicked look with terror and amazement upon the scene, while the righteous behold with solemn joy the tokens of their deliverance....

“Through a rift in the clouds, there beams a star whose brilliancy is increased fourfold in contrast with the darkness. It speaks hope and joy to the faithful, but severity and wrath to the transgressors of God’s law. Those who have sacrificed all for Christ are now secure, hidden

as in the secret of the Lord's pavilion. They have been tested, and before the world and the despisers of truth they have evinced their fidelity to Him who died for them. A marvelous change has come over those who have held fast their integrity in the very face of death. They have been suddenly delivered from the dark and terrible tyranny of men transformed to demons." –*The Great Controversy*, pp. 636, 638, 639.

10. Who will rejoice in the final victory? 1 Corinthians 15:57; Psalm 98:1; 1 John 5:4.

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

