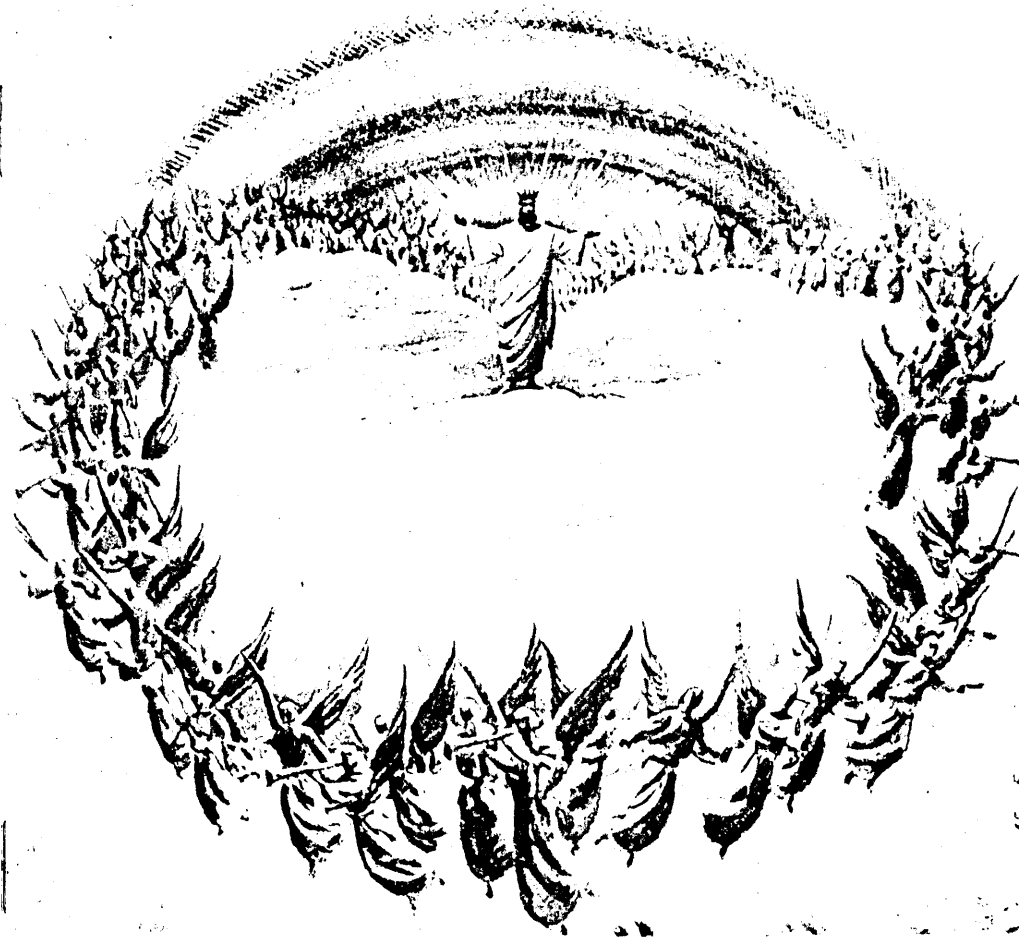


EARLITEEN FIRST YEAR,
THIRD QUARTER

Sabbath School Lessons

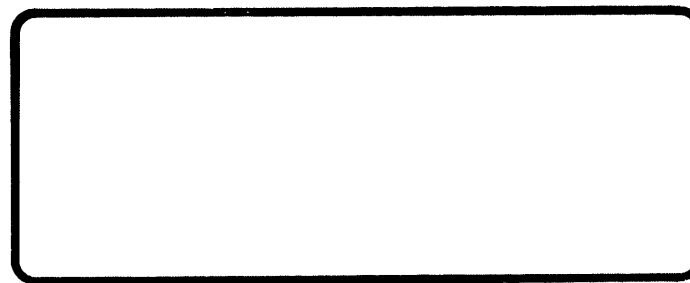


**Preparing for
Christ's Return**

EARLITEEN SABBATH SCHOOL LESSONS

Preparing for Christ's Return

FIRST YEAR, THIRD QUARTER



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Lesson 1

SIGNS OF JESUS' RETURN

Memory verse:

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

1. *In Matthew 24:1, why do you think the disciples wanted to show Jesus the temple?*

NOTE: As the Jews stated in John 2:20, the temple had been in the building process for 46 years. In fact, the entire complex of courts and beautiful buildings surrounding the temple was finally completed in about A.D. 63, only 7 years before they were destroyed by the Romans.

2. *Jesus turned the attention of His disciples to the future. What did He say to them about this temple? Matthew 24:2.*

3. *When these disciples (Peter, James, John and Andrew - Mark 13:3) were alone with Jesus on the Mount of Olives, they asked three questions. List them. Matthew 24:3.*

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

4. *What is deception? Why did Jesus warn the disciples to beware of it? Matthew 24:4.*

5. *According to Matthew 24:5, there was a danger of people coming up in the world claiming to be the Messiah? How can you tell the true from the false?*

6. Wars and rumors of wars flourish anew daily. Are we to worry about these things for fear of the end of the world? Matthew 24:6.

7. In Matthew 24:7, there is a list of events that will take place before the end of this world. Read each one carefully and supply the name of a location where each event has recently occurred.

a. Nation shall rise against nation _____

b. Kingdom against kingdom _____

c. Famine _____

d. Pestilences (or plagues) _____

e. Earthquakes _____

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

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Do you think there are people today who come in the name of Jesus and yet deceive many?

2. Is it possible today that, like the disciples, we could fasten our attention on the things of this world and forget about eternal values? To what would Jesus point us?

3. In the first eight verses of Matthew 24, what parts impressed you the most as you see the condition of our world today? Is this chapter up to date for our time? Why?

Lesson 2

ENDURANCE

Memory verse:

"But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved." Matthew 24:13.

1. The end will come! What does Matthew say about the things that precede the end? Matthew 24:14.

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

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

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

(Discuss in class why you think Jesus listed these escape routes and why you think they might be successful.)

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

3. Jesus felt sorrow for those who would soon be having babies, as well as for those who had to care for their babies during this escape. Read Matthew 24:19 and explain in your own words why you think Jesus especially mentioned mothers with children.

4. Christians were to pray for two things concerning their flight from Jerusalem. What were these two things, and why were they to pray concerning them? Matthew 24:20.

a. _____

b. _____

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

6. Why were these days to be shortened? Matthew 24:22.

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

7. Can you list at least three times since Jesus' ascension to heaven that persecution has come upon God's people?

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

8. Why do you think there is so little persecution of Christians in America today?

Note: "The religion which is current in our day is not of the pure and holy character that marked the Christian faith in the days of Christ and His apostles. It is only because of the spirit of compromise with sin, because the great truths of the word of God are so indifferently regarded, because there is so little vital godliness in the church, that Christianity is apparently so popular with the world. Let there be a revival of the faith and power of the

early church, and the spirit of persecution will be revived, and the fires of persecution will be rekindled." - *The Great Controversy*, p. 48.

GIVE YOUR IDEA IN CLASS

1. What is the gospel of the kingdom, and why is it so important that it needs to be preached to everyone before the end will come?

2. Do you think true faith in God is popular with the ideas of the world? Why?

3. Do you know of any persecution of Christians in the world today?

4. In the light of this lesson, do you think persecution will come to America? Discuss your answer.

5. In line with the memory verse, describe in your own words what endurance means and why it is so necessary for salvation.

Lesson 3

DECEPTIONS

Memory verse:

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

1. Jesus wanted the disciples to beware of two things that would arise. What were they? _____ and _____.

They would show two very real and great things. What were these? _____ and _____.

According to Jesus, would the elect of God be deceived by these things? Matthew 24:24.

2. *There are many people in the world today who follow after these things that Jesus warned about in question 1. Do they have any excuse for being deceived, according to Jesus' words in Matthew 24:25?*

3. *In Matthew 24:26, we are told that these same people will tell you that Jesus is in the desert. Do you know of people who believe this today? Who are they? _____
Also, people say He is in the secret chambers. Who are they? _____*

Note: Jesus told us that if some tell you to go and see Jesus in the desert, not to go. And if they say He is in the secret chambers, that we should not go to see. He said, "Believe it not."

4. *When Jesus comes, what will it be like? Matthew 24:27.*

5. *Will only a small part of earth's inhabitants see Him? Revelation 1:7.*

6. *In Matthew 24:28, Jesus was probably warning us again to wait until we see Him and not to go flocking after things that are not true, even if the whole world goes out to see Satan's wonders. God's people must be obedient if they will find salvation. When these deceptions become so prominent, will you remember what Jesus said concerning His second coming?*

7. *How can we be assured that what Jesus told us is correct? John 17:17.*

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

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. *Do you think there is a need for us to study our Bibles today? Why?*

2. *Today there are many so-called "faith healers" and many Christians who believe that these "healers" are from God. Jesus warned us that great signs and wonders would be done by Satan. How can you decide for sure whether these miracles are from God, or Satan? Give a Bible text and discuss in class.*

3. *Read The Great Controversy, pp. 624, 625 (first paragraph). Discuss and answer the following questions:*

a. *Why is Christ coming again?*

b. *Is He coming to work miracles and prove that He is Christ?*

c. *Will He touch the earth when He comes?*

d. *Can Satan raise the dead to life?*

e. *Can Satan impersonate dead friends or relatives?*

f. *Does Satan have a glorious brightness and power?*

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

Lesson 4

SIGNS IN THE SKY

Memory verse:

*"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My words shall not pass away."
Matthew 24:35.*

1. *According to Matthew 24:29, where did Jesus tell us to look for more signs of His coming? List the four signs given in the verse.*

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____

2. *After these things happened, what would happen next? Matthew 24:30.*

3. *Will angels play a part in the redemption of man at Jesus' coming? How? Matthew 24:31.*

4. *In speaking of fig trees, what did Jesus say is an indication that the summer season is near? Matthew 24:32.*

What season comes after summer? _____

Why is the season important to farmers, as well as to us in a spiritual sense?

5. *When all these things begin to come to pass, what is near? Matthew 24:33, 34.*

6. *What did Jesus say about the words He spoke? Matthew 24:35.*

7. *Can we be assured that the words of prophecy Jesus gave almost 2,000 years ago are accurate for us today? 2 Peter 1:19.*

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. *Discuss in class what it would have been like to live during the days when this part of Christ's prophecy was fulfilled. Would you, like many others, have thought the end of the world had come?*

2. *Should we become frightened when we hear about and see signs of Jesus' coming? Why, or why not?*

3. *We are told to look to the heavens for these signs. Can you name some other signs that help us realize Jesus' coming is soon? What are they?*

Lesson 5

PREPARE FOR HIS COMING!

Memory verse:

*"Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come."
Matthew 24:42.*

1. *How many people today know the day and hour of Jesus' coming? Matthew 24:36. Do angels know? Who knows?*

2. *What would the last days be compared to? What were those days like? Do they compare to our day? Matthew 24:37-39.*

3. *List the four main things given in Matthew 24:38 that people would be doing shortly before His coming. Explain why you think Jesus said these things were wrong.*

4. *According to Matthew 24:40, 41, some people will be left. Jesus was still talking about the days of Noah. Which class of people were taken away in the flood? _____
Which remained safe? _____*

Note: We do not know the day and hour of Jesus' return; but after studying the Scriptures, it would be hard to say that He would come silently and spirit the people away. This is a popular teaching in our world today, but it is a deception.

5. *What did Jesus tell us to do then? Why? Matthew 24:42.*

6. *We are also told to be ready in Matthew 24:43, 44. Why?*

7. *Describe the faithful and wise servant, according to Matthew 24:45-51. What will he be doing?*

Describe the evil servant. What is he like, and what will the Lord do to him? _____

8. *What kind of servant do you want to be?* _____

WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED?

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

Lesson 6

A PARABLE FOR THE LAST DAYS

Memory verse:

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

1. *To what did Jesus liken the kingdom of heaven? Matthew 25:1.*
2. *How many were wise? Matthew 25:2.*
3. *How many were foolish? Matthew 25:2.*
4. *Why were the five considered wise? Matthew 25:3.*

5. *Why were the others considered foolish? Matthew 24:4.*

6. *When Jesus spoke concerning the virgins, whom exactly was He speaking about? Ephesians 5:32.*
7. *What is important about the lamps and the oil? What do they symbolize? Psalm 119:105; Zacharias 4:2-6.*
8. *The foolish virgins were together with the wise ones, but they lacked oil (or the enlightenment of God's Spirit). What words of Paul to Timothy show the failures of the foolish virgins? 2 Timothy 3:5.*

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. *Remember that at the beginning all of the virgins appeared to be waiting for the bridegroom. With no oil in their lamps at night, how far do you think they could go before becoming lost?*
2. *How far could a Christian go in the darkness of this world without the light of God's Spirit and His Holy Word?*
3. *Why do you think five of the virgins failed to bring extra oil?*
4. *What reasons can you think of for people not having a living connection with God's Spirit?*

Lesson 7

WHO WILL ENTER THE KINGDOM?

Memory verse:

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

The virgins in Matthew 25 are symbolic of God's church on earth today. Christ is symbolized by the bridegroom.

1. *While the bridegroom tarried, what did all of the virgins do? Matthew 25:5.*
2. *At what hour did the bridegroom come, according to the parable, and what were the virgins told to do? Matthew 25:6.*
3. *Describe in your own words what the virgins began to do next. Matthew 25:7-9.*
4. *What happened while the foolish virgins went to buy oil at this late hour? Matthew 25:10.*
5. *When the foolish virgins at last came to the marriage, what did the bridegroom say? Matthew 25:11, 12.*
6. *Who will enter the kingdom of heaven? Matthew 7:21.*
7. *What counsel is given to us today, as we realize that the end is near? Matthew 24:44; 25:13.*

RELATE YOUR THOUGHTS:

1. *Why do you think this lesson is important for you to study?*

2. *Do you want to be ready when Jesus comes to take His bride (the church - His people) home?*
3. *In what ways can we prepare so we won't be found outside the feast with the door forever shut?*

Lesson 8

TALENTS FOR A PURPOSE

Memory verse:

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

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

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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

Lesson 9

THE BURIED TALENT

Memory verse:

"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." 1 Corinthians 10:31.

1. *What did the servant with one talent say to his lord when the day of accounting came? Matthew 25:24.*

How did he view his master?

2. *Why did the servant hide his talent?*

What did he give to his master? Matthew 25:25.

3. *What did the lord say to his servant? Matthew 25:26, 27.*

4. *Since the man did nothing with the talent he had, what did the lord do with his talent? Matthew 25:28.*

5. *What will be given those who use their talents in a profitable way for God? Matthew 25:29, first part.*

6. *What will happen to the talent of anyone who does not use it? Matthew 25:29, last part.*

7. *What sorrowful end will result if we fail to use our talent for the Master? Matthew 25:30.*

DISCUSSION:

1. *Everyone has at least one talent. We actually have many. Do you think we have a real responsibility to use them for Jesus?*

2. *Was the servant's view of the lord correct? Is our Master hard and mean? John 3:16; 1 John 3:1.*

3. *When the Lord comes to make an account, what would you wish Him to say to you? Read and discuss Matthew 25:23, 30.*

Lesson 10

JUDGMENT ON THE TALENTS' USE

Memory verse:

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

1. *What happened to the servant who didn't use his talent? Matthew 25:30.*

2. Answer these questions from Matthew 25:31:

- a. Who is coming soon? _____
- b. Who is coming with Him? _____
- c. What will He do? _____

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

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

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

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

7. What will Jesus say to those on His right? Matthew 25:34.

8. What will He say to those on His left? Matthew 25:41.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. On what side do you think the unprofitable servant will be when Jesus comes? Why?
2. Do you know a few texts in the Bible that compare God's people with sheep? Find them and list them in your lesson.
3. Discuss in class what you think God's kingdom will be like. Feel free to use your Bible.

THE RIGHTEOUS COMMENDED

Memory verse:

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

1. List the six different ways the righteous worked for the Lord, according to Matthew 25:35, 36.

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____
- e. _____
- f. _____

2. In Ezekiel 18, the Lord describes the works of those who will live. See Verses 5, 9. What will the righteous do?

3. Will righteous people be aware that the good things they did were directly for Jesus? Matthew 25:37-39.

4. What will Jesus answer them? Matthew 25:40.

5. What did Jesus tell us to do even for those who curse and persecute us? Matthew 5:44, 45.

6. Are there many today who are willing to do good things for the Lord? Luke 10:2.

7. *What should we be willing to do for all men? Galatians 6:10.*

OPEN DISCUSSION

1. *Why do you think the righteous do things for God and their fellow human beings?*

2. *Can we be saved because we do good works?*

3. *Do you think a kind word or deed could lead someone to become a Christian? Why?*

Lesson 12

THE WICKED CONDEMNED

Memory verse:

"He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love." 1 John 4:8.

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

2. *Make a list of six things in Matthew 25:42-44 that reveal the neglects in serving the Lord.*

a. _____ d. _____

b. _____ e. _____

c. _____ f. _____

3. *Why did Jesus say these unfaithful servants had failed Him? _____
_____ Matthew 25:45.*

4. *What has separated us from God? Isaiah 2:7.*

5. *How has the Lord drawn us to Himself? Jeremiah 31:3.*

6. *Does the Lord take pleasure in the death of the wicked?
What would God rather see? Ezekiel 18:32.*

7. *What is said of God's attitude toward the unthankful and the evil?
Therefore, what should we do? Luke 6:35.*

THINK IT THROUGH

1. *Do you think our God is worthy of our faithful service? Why?*

2. *Would the wicked be happy living eternally in God's presence?*

3. *If you love the Lord, is it hard to be faithful to Him?*

SUMMARY and REVIEW

1. *According to Lesson 1, check which of the following is most dangerous to our spiritual growth today.*
 - a. *Earthquakes*
 - b. *Famines*
 - c. *Pestilences*
 - d. *Deception*
2. *According to Lesson 2, who does the Lord tell us will be saved?*
3. *In Lesson 3, we learned that many people living in the last days would trust in signs and wonders. Turn to Matthew 24 and list the scriptures that tell us who does these miracles, and what God's people are to do when confronted with them.*
4. *How and when will Jesus come? Matthew 24:27, 14, 36.*
5. *To what days did Jesus compare the last days? See Matthew 24:37-39.*
6. *What counsel did the Lord give to us concerning His coming? Matthew 24:44.*
7. *According to Lesson 6, whom do the virgins of Matthew 25 represent?*
8. *Who is the bridegroom?*
9. *Who will finally enter the kingdom of heaven? Matthew 7:21.*
10. *Review Lessons 8-12 in class and discuss ways in which you can better use your talents for God.*