

SABBATH SCHOOL LESSONS

for the Third Quarter 2002

God's Primary Objectives

Issued by the
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International Missionary Society
of the Seventh-day Adventist Reform Movement

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INTRODUCTION

In seeking to understand God's word, especially the issues of law, judgment, glory, grace, and free will, men have tried to "divide" (2 Timothy 2:15) the Scriptures in different ways and explain them by various methodologies. Dispensationalists, for example, carve up history into (1) the time of innocence when men were "without law," (2) the time when Israel was "under law," (3) our present dispensation of grace, (4) a future dispensation of judgment, which will be followed by (5) one of millennial glory. The dispensationalist asserts that scripture cannot be rightly understood except by looking at it through his "glasses." But God does not work in this way.

Others, as three of Job's friends, in trying to find a more simplistic understanding of inspiration, approach the Scriptures from the standpoint of human experience (as Eliphaz) or from the higher ground of human tradition (as Bildad). Still others seek to find their comfort and assurance by looking to the Scriptures to support human merit (as self-righteous Zophar). But these emotional (Evangelical), traditional (Catholic), or logical (higher criticism) approaches actually undermine the authority of Scripture by substituting or displacing the Holy Spirit's work and destroying that living connection needed for a living experience.

The Bible is its own answer. Any extrabiblical source (such as modern prophetic utterances) that tries to solve seeming contradictions of scripture aside from scripture itself will fall short of glory. And if we fall short of glory because we refuse light and accept a false system, we will never be changed into His image (because by beholding we become changed)! If we neglect to search out and cherish the right view of God and His word, how can we ever reflect His image to the world? We simply cannot!

But God has provided in His word ample proof and examples of the human being's part in the great scheme of things—to justify God, as did Elihu. Job 32-37. God does NOT have different "principles of administration [which] varied as man was in [different] dispensations," but He does have five basic objectives and realms within which He is working: (1) MAN; (2) CHURCH, (3) SANCTUARY, (4) EARTH, and (5) LAW (foundation of His universal government). These five objectives will be studied in reverse order, as if we would be looking at them from God's perspective.

This overview of how God is working shows that there is a wonderfully similar process at all levels. Putting forth effort to grasp these important realities will help us to cooperate with Him and to adjust our objectives to His. The Spirit of Prophecy tells us that it will take mental effort to rightly understand the Scriptures. But the more they are understood, the more impressive and effective will be our presentation of His kingdom to the world—our reflection of the revelation we have received of Jesus Christ.

We urge each member of the Sabbath school to do more than simply write down the Bible verses given for each question. Let us prayerfully consider each question and concept, pleading for God's Spirit to impress our minds and hearts for the purpose of (1) deepening our personal relationship with Jesus Christ and to spiritual things and (2) increasing our effectiveness in reflecting the character of Jesus within our circle of influence.

Furthermore, we have been requested to enrich and expand the material contained in the Sabbath School Lessons, and we want to encourage the students to go much deeper in their study. Therefore, additional Bible and Spirit of Prophecy references are provided at the end of each lesson. Depending on what Spirit of Prophecy resources and opportunities are available to you, take advantage of the materials and additional references by coming together and studying the themes in small study groups. We are sure interested souls will also be pleased to join you.

Those who teach should carefully note the organization of the lessons and how everything is interrelated—from general to specific—constantly keeping before the students God's ultimate objective in restoring peace and harmony to the universe. The individual is simply a very small cog in a great big wheel. Nevertheless, just here is the key to all the rest. It is through the power of the gospel in the individual life that the church will be helped properly to represent Christ to the world; then the sanctuary will be cleansed, the earth will be warned, and Christ can come. May these lessons do their God-appointed work to help prepare a people for the day of the Lord!

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1

Sabbath, July 6, 2002

Many Crowns

MEMORY VERSE

“His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns; and He had a name written, that no man knew, but He Himself.” Revelation 19:12.

THEME

- The plan of salvation encompasses everything that has been contaminated with sin—the heart of man, the church, the sanctuary, the earth as a whole, and ultimately the challenge to God’s law and government.
- “God in His providence is preparing a way so that the work may be done by human agents. Then let every man stand at his post of duty, to act his part for this time and know that God is his instructor.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 9, p. 259.

GOD’S OBJECTIVES

- 1. What was Jesus’ overriding objective in coming to earth? Luke 19:10; Hebrews 2:9, 14.**

“All that had been lost by yielding to Satan could be regained through Christ.” —*Education*, p. 27.

- 2. Revelation 19:12 says that on Jesus’ “head were many crowns.” What does it mean to wear a crown? List different realms (dominions) over which He is (or eventually will be) King.**

Note: This quarter's Sabbath School Lessons deal with God's five known objectives. These relate to His overall objective of restoring order in the universe, as presented below:

1. "God dwells in humanity, and through saving grace the **heart of man** becomes again His temple." –*The Desire of Ages*, p. 161. (Connect this with the first realm below, over which sin has had no dominion.)
2. "Christ is the supreme ruler of His **church**." –*Daughters of God*, p. 222 [Ephesians 1:22; 5:23; Colossians 1:18].
3. "The One who has stood as our Intercessor ... is soon to cease His work in the heavenly **sanctuary**.... He for whom His people have looked will assume His right—the office of **Supreme Judge**." –*Review and Herald*, January 1, 1889(see also 2 Chronicles 30:8; Hebrews 8, 9; Revelation 1).
4. "**The earth** [though in rebellion] is the Lord's." Psalm 24:1; 1 John 5:19, last part. *Greek*: "The whole world lieth under the wicked one."
5. "Since the fall of man, **God's moral government** and His grace are inseparable." –*Faith and Works*, p. 30. (See Isaiah 33:22.)

Note: In addition to the above, there are at least two other dominions of God's universe where sin is not a problem and which therefore are not in need of restoration:

1. "There is no limit to His power. He controls **the heavens with their numberless worlds**." –*The Sanctified Life*, p. 75.
2. "To **the angels and the unfallen worlds** the cry, 'It is finished,' had a deep significance. It was for them as well as for us that the great work of redemption had been accomplished. They with us share the fruits of Christ's victory." –*The Desire of Ages*, p. 758.

THE PATH HE TROD

3. To become our Redeemer and King, what did Jesus have to do? Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 7:14; 9:6; Jeremiah 23:6; Philip-pians 2:6-11 (see the diagram exercise below).

Christ's redemptive work, as presented in Philippians 2:6-11, included some steps down and additional steps back up. Insert the missing steps below.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Being in the form of God | 7. Delivers all glory to God |
| 2. | 6. Lord of lords, King of kings |
| 3. | 5. |
| 4. | 4. |
| 5. | 3. |
| 6. | 2. Rose from the dead |
| 7. Rested in the tomb | 1. Rested in the tomb |

4. Give some Biblical examples of this path and explain how one or more of the steps can also apply to us individually. Genesis 28:12; John 1:51; Matthew 11:28, 29; 1 Peter 5:6.

“The mystic ladder of his dream represented Jesus, the only medium of communication between God and man.”—*Steps to Christ*, pp. 19, 20.

“For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow His steps.” 1 Peter 2:21.

“When you think that the way is too strait, that there is too much self-denial in this narrow path; when you say, How hard to give up all, ask yourselves the question, What did Christ give up for me? This question puts anything that we may call self-denial in the shade.”—*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, p. 240.

ASSIGNMENT TO REINFORCE LEARNING

5. Select and study one character or illustration in the Bible; prepare a brief explanation of how that person, parable, or object represents Christ. (Use Biblical references but your own words!) Then, examine your selection in relation to the diagram following question 3; which portion(s) of the diagram does your example illustrate?

Here are some examples: **MEN:** Enoch, Abraham, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, Daniel, the apostle Paul; or a person or object in a **PARABLE:** The good Shepherd, the good Samaritan, the man who found the hidden treasure, the sower; a **SYMBOL:** Lamb, ox, eagle, lion, the brass serpent. You may want to select your own; the Bible is replete with such examples. “Christ Himself is the pearl of great price.... Every page of the Holy Scriptures shines with His light.”—*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 115.

SUMMARY

- “Only as we contemplate the great plan of redemption can we have a just appreciation of the character of God.”—*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 739.
- “You know the height from which He stooped, the depth of humiliation to which He descended.”—*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 332.

PERSONAL REFLECTION

- Looking back at my own past experience and walk with Christ, what sequences can I see?
- To what extent and in what realms of my personal life is Christ the Ruler?

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND STUDY ON THIS SUBJECT

- Concerning following Jesus, find the different occasions in the gospels when He said, "Follow Me."
 - About the path He trod, study again John 1:1-3, 14 and Hebrews 2:14-18, and see also the comments of Sister Ellen G. White in the *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vols. 5 and 6, on Philipians 2:5-8; Mark 16:6; Luke 22:44; John 10:17, 18; 12:32; Romans 5:12-19; 2 Corinthians 8:9; Galatians 6:14, last reference; 1 Timothy 2:5; and Hebrews 3:1-3.
 - Concerning Christ as man and the church's head, see: 1 Corinthians 11:3; Ephesians 4:15; 5:23.
 - Regarding Christ's sufferings and glory, see: Luke 24:26; 2 Corinthians 4:17; Hebrews 2:9, 10; 12:2; 1 Peter 1:11; 4:13; 5:1, 10.
 - About our need to agonize as did Christ, see *Selected Messages*, vol. 1, pp. 408, 409.
 - Additional Bible and Spirit of Prophecy references which will enrich your study of this lesson include the following: 2 Corinthians 8:9; Ephesians 2:20; 1 Peter 2:6; Matthew 10:33; 16:24; Mark 8:34; Luke 9:23; 2 Timothy 2:12; Titus 1:5, 11; Colossians 1:19; Philipians 1:21; and the Ellen G. White comments under this verse in the *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 6, p. 1109; *Christ's Object Lessons*, pp. 113-121.
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2

Sabbath, July 13, 2002

Why He Wore a Crown of Thorns

MEMORY VERSE

“Thou hast put all things in subjection under His feet. For in that He put all in subjection under Him, He left nothing that is not put under Him. But now we see not yet all things put under Him.” Hebrews 2:8.

THEME

- The five dominions to be cleansed, reclaimed, or restored.
- Coordination of our goals with God’s objectives.

OVERVIEW

“Beginning with the first gospel promise, and coming down through the patriarchal and Jewish ages, and even to the present time, there has been a gradual unfolding of the purposes of God in the plan of redemption.” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 373.

“[Revelation 1:1; 22:9, R.V. quoted.] Wonderful thought—that the angel who stands next in honor to the Son of God is the one chosen to open the purposes of God to sinful men.” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 99.

INTRODUCTION

- After telling Moses to build Him a sanctuary (Exodus 25:8), God began His instructions with the ark of the covenant in the Most Holy Place, where His presence would be especially manifested. Exodus 25:10; 26:33.
- Beginning from that point, we can identify five parts in the organizational structure of Israel in the wilderness.
 5. The Most Holy Place: Exodus 26:33
 4. The Holy Place: Exodus 26:33
 3. The Sanctuary: Exodus 27:9
 2. The Priests, Gershonites, Merarites, and Kohathites: Numbers 3, 4, 26
 1. The People: Numbers 2

“The camp was arranged in exact order, the tabernacle, the abiding place of God, in the midst, and around it the tents of the priests and the Levites. Outside of these each tribe encamped beside its own standard.” –*Education*, pp. 37, 38.

“Besides the outer court, which contained the altar of burnt offering, the tabernacle itself consisted of two apartments called the holy and the most holy place, separated by a rich and beautiful curtain, or veil; a similar veil closed the entrance to the first apartment.” –*The Great Controversy*, p. 411.

GOD’S FIVE OBJECTIVES

1. In the Most Holy Place, what revealed God’s ultimate objective? Deuteronomy 10:5; Matthew 5:17, 18 (also Luke 16:17); Psalm 40:8; Ecclesiastes 12:13, 14.

“Here [in Matthew 5:17, 18] Jesus refutes the charge of the Pharisees. His mission to the world is to vindicate the sacred claims of that law which they charge Him with breaking.” –*The Desire of Ages*, p. 307.

“His law lies at the foundation of His government in earth and in heaven.” –*Faith and Works*, p. 43.

2a. What do the items in the Holy Place reveal about God’s provisions for the world (His fourth objective)? Exodus 30:27; Psalm 119:105; Zechariah 4:6, last part; John 6:51; Revelation 8:3.

“By the lamps is represented the word of God.... The oil is a symbol of the Holy Spirit.” –*Christ’s Object Lessons*, pp. 406, 407.

“Christ is still at the table on which the paschal supper has been spread. The unleavened cakes used at the Passover season are before Him. The Passover wine, untouched by fermentation, is on the table. These emblems Christ employs to represent His own unblemished sacrifice. Nothing corrupted by fermentation, the symbol of sin and death, could represent the ‘Lamb without blemish and without spot.’ 1 Peter 1: 19.” –*The Desire of Ages*, p. 653.

- 2b. Why did Jesus wear a crown of thorns? Find the texts in Genesis which refer to thorns as representing the curse upon the earth as the result of sin. Hebrews 2:8, 9. (In the last part of verse 9, the *Greek* also reads, “all things.”)**

“The earth itself, the very field that Satan claims as his, is to be not only ransomed but exalted. Our little world, under the curse of sin the one dark blot in His glorious creation, will be honored above all other worlds in the universe of God.” –*The Desire of Ages*, p. 26.

The Bible uses the words “earth” and “world” to mean the habitation of man and sometimes in reference to the people on the earth (the “world”) as distinguished from the physical planet (the “earth”). See John 3:16; Isaiah 45:18.

- 3. What else must be cleansed (God’s third objective)? Daniel 8:14; Hebrews 8:1, 2; 1 John 2:1.**
- 4. Through His heavenly ministry and His Holy Spirit, for what is Christ now working? Malachi 3:3; Ephesians 5:26, 27.**
- 5. What is God’s first objective? Matthew 16:24; 1 Tim. 2:4. Hebrews 1:14; 1 Corinthians 6:9, 10. What should we ask Him and ourselves personally? 2 Corinthians 13:5.**

“God is the owner of your individuality. Of Him you are to ask: What is right? What is wrong? How may I best fulfill the purpose of my creation?” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 7, p. 45.

TO REINFORCE THE LESSON

- Draw a diagram of the five parts of the organizational structure of the people of Israel in the wilderness (see above Introduction) and relate them to God's five objectives.
- Considering the first five books of the Bible in the light of this lesson, it can be seen that each one focuses on one of God's five objectives:

Genesis:	Man
Exodus:	Church
Leviticus:	Sanctuary
Numbers:	Earth
Deuteronomy:	Law

Choose one of these books and find some verses or stories that present the focus of the book.

- The five books of Psalms are organized in the same order:

1-41:	Man
42-72:	Church
73-89:	Sanctuary
90-106:	Earth
107-150:	Law

Choose one or more of your favorite psalms and see how they are related to the specific objective of the book to which they belong.

SUMMARY

- God is working in five basic lines: (5) to vindicate His Law (His government), (4) to reclaim the earth, (3) to cleanse the sanctuary, (2) to prepare the church to represent Him, (1) to save the individual.
- "If men would give less attention to the artificial and would cultivate greater simplicity, they would come far nearer to answering the purpose of God in their creation." —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 49, 50.

FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

- In your personal daily Bible study, be open to observe how God's various objectives appear in different Scriptures. (For example, you'll find at least three in Daniel 2; in Matthew 23:23, you'll find at least two.)

- Ask yourself: “In what ways can I allow God to make my life more compatible with His purposes?”

“The minister’s acceptance with God depends not on outward show, but on his faithful discharge of duty. Christ’s road to exaltation lay through the deepest humiliation. Those who are partakers with Christ in His sufferings, who follow cheerfully in His footsteps, will be partakers with Him in His glory.” —*Selected Messages*, vol. 2, p. 159.

FOR MORE STUDY AND INFORMATION ON THIS SUBJECT

- Read the Spirit of Prophecy references for Psalm 119, such as in the *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 3, pp. 1152, 1153. Read this Psalm and search for the ten words used to portray the word and law of God, as well as how the other four objectives relate to the law.
- Re-read Matthew 7:12 and 22:35-40 (Luke 10:26-28) in the light of this lesson.
- Read Zechariah 4 in connection with *Christ’s Object Lessons*, pp. 405-408.
- Other Spirit of Prophecy references include the following: *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, pp. 477, 478, 534, 535; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 373, 374; *The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 163, 164.

3

Sabbath, July 20, 2002

Five Reasons Why Jesus Came to Earth

MEMORY VERSE

“Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which He hath purchased with His own blood.” Acts 20:28.

THEME

- Christ’s work to reclaim everything that was lost through sin.
- His five distinct objectives.
- What He had to do on earth to fulfill His mission.

OBJECTIVE FIVE—HIS LAW AND GOVERNMENT

1. Why did God send His Son to this world? John 3:17; Romans 8:32; 1 John 4:9.

“But it was not merely to accomplish the redemption of man that Christ came to the earth to suffer and to die. He came to ‘magnify the law’ and to ‘make it honorable.’ Not alone that the inhabitants of this world might regard the law as it should be regarded; but it was to demonstrate to all the worlds of the universe that God’s law is unchangeable.” *—The Great Controversy*, p. 503.

“Christ came to our world to bring all men back to allegiance to God” and “to counteract Satan’s falsehood that God had made a law which men could not keep.... Those who accept Christ as their Saviour, becoming partakers of His divine nature, are enabled to follow His example, living in obedience to every precept of the law. Through the merits of Christ, man is to show by his obedience that he could be trusted in heaven, that he would not rebel.” *—Faith and Works*, p. 71; *The Faith I Live By*, p. 114.

“Christ came to the world to establish a kingdom.” *—Review and Herald*, August 18, 1896.

2. How did Jesus express His desire for complete and final victory in the great controversy? Matthew 26:29.

OBJECTIVE FOUR—EARTH, HOME OF THE HUMAN RACE

3. How does the first angel's message relate to Christ's life, death, and resurrection? Revelation 14:6, last part.

See also Isaiah 53:11; Psalm 22:30; Daniel 7:27; Isaiah 11:9; 59:19; *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 827, 828.

“For the purpose of redeeming a lost world, the divine Son of God had endured the cross, despising the shame, and had ascended to heaven triumphant over death and the grave.” —*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 436.

4. To what does the parable of the sower particularly apply? Matthew 13:3-30 (especially verses 17-19, 24, 38).

“Christ came to sow the world with truth. Ever since the fall of man, Satan has been sowing the seeds of error... Ever since the fall of man, Christ had been the Revealer of truth to the world. By Him the incorruptible seed ... is communicated to men. 1 Peter 1:23. In that first promise spoken to *our fallen race* in Eden, Christ was sowing the gospel seed. But it is to His personal ministry among men and to the work which He thus established that the parable of the sower especially applies. —*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 37.

“Christ came to the world to perfect a righteous character for many, and to *elevate the fallen race*.” —*Review and Herald*, March 4, 1875.

“Christ came to bring salvation within the reach of all. Upon the cross of Calvary He paid the infinite redemption price *for a lost world*.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 603.

OBJECTIVE THREE—THE SANCTUARY

5. In relation to His becoming our High Priest, give reasons why Jesus needed to become like us. Hebrews 7:26, 25; 4:15; 5:1.

“By His spotless life, His obedience, His death on the cross of Calvary, Christ interceded for the lost race. And now, not as a mere petitioner does the Captain of our salvation intercede for us, but as a Conqueror claiming His victory.”—*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 156.

“Christ came to receive baptism, not with confession of sins to repentance, for He was without the taint of sin. He marked the way for the sinner by His own example in taking the steps the sinner is required to take.

“Christ came as the sinner’s substitute to bear the guilt Himself, which justly belonged to man. Through the perfection of his character He was accepted of the Father as a mediator for sinful man... [Hebrews 4: 15 quoted]. The Captain of our salvation was made perfect through suffering, and thus qualified to help fallen man just where he needed help.”—*The Youth’s Instructor*, January 1, 1874.

“Christ laid aside His royal robes and garbed Himself with humanity and offered sacrifice, Himself the priest, Himself the victim.”—*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 33.

OBJECTIVE TWO—THE CHURCH

- 6. With what beautiful picture did the apostle Paul describe Christ’s relationship to the church? What is she to do in her waiting time? 2 Corinthians 11:2; Isaiah 60:1, 6, last part; Revelation 19:7.**

“The Lord has provided His church with capabilities and blessings, that they may present to the world an image of His own sufficiency, and that His church may be complete in Him, a continual representation of another, even the eternal world, of laws that are higher than earthly laws. His church is to be a temple built after the divine similitude, and the angelic architect has brought his golden measuring rod from heaven, that every stone may be hewed and squared by the divine measurement and polished to shine as an emblem of heaven, radiating in all directions the bright, clear beams of the Sun of Righteousness. The church is to be fed with manna from Heaven and to be kept under the sole guardianship of His grace. Clad in complete armor of light and righteousness, she enters upon her final conflict. The dross, the worthless material, will be consumed, and the influence of the truth testifies to the world of its sanctifying, ennobling character.”—(*General Conference Daily Bulletin*, February 27, 1893) *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, pp. 17, 18.

7. What is Christ's gift to His bride, the church? Galatians 1:4; 2:20; 1 Timothy 2:6.

OBJECTIVE ONE—MAN

8. For whom did the Redeemer come and live and die? Luke 5:32; 19:10; 2 Corinthians 5:19-21.

“It was the mission of Jesus to reconcile men to God, and thus to one another.”—*The Great Controversy*, pp. 46, 47.

“The mission of Christ in this world was not to gratify idle curiosity. He came to heal the brokenhearted.”—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 730.

TO REINFORCE LEARNING

- Select one of the following statements and consider how it applies to one or more of God's primary purposes or objectives:
 - “When the character of Christ shall be perfectly reproduced in His people, then He will come to claim them as His own.”—*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 69.
 - “The Saviour does not point forward to a time when all the tares become wheat.”—*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 75.

SUMMARY

- In coming to earth, Christ had more than the salvation of man in mind.
- He came to bring everything that was lost back to loyalty to God.
- According to Matthew 7:12; Philippians 2:4; 1 Corinthians 13:5, and similar verses, we should often re-evaluate our own objectives and motives in the light of God's objectives.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS SUBJECT

- Bible references: Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 42:21; 61:1; Matthew 12:40, 41; 25:35, 36; Luke 5:31, 32; John 8:12; 16:7; 15:15; 14:26; 16:15, 13, 14; chapter 17; 2 Timothy 1:7; 2 Thessalonians 2:14; Romans 8:29; Colossians 1:28.

- Spirit of Prophecy references: *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 6, p. 1078, paragraph 8; vol. 7, p. 951, paragraph 6; *The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 53, 393, 505; *Christ's Object Lessons*, pp. 37, 244; *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 270, 341, 406, 577; *Education*, pp. 73, 76, 93, 94, 103; *Gospel Workers*, p. 41; *The Great Controversy*, pp. 466, 467, 503; *The Ministry of Healing*, pp. 17, 130, 131, 180; *Messages to Young People*, p. 15; *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 9, p. 139.

4

Sabbath, July 27, 2002

God's Ultimate Objective (Part 1)

MEMORY VERSE

“Open Thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of Thy law.”
Psalm 119:18.

THEME

- “The great God has a law by which to govern His kingdom.” —*The Youth's Instructor*, February 7, 1895.
- God's law/authority vindicated and willingly accepted by all His creatures.

OVERVIEW

“Jesus died to save His people from their sins, and redemption in Christ means to cease the transgression of the law of God and to be free from every sin; no heart that is stirred with enmity against the law of God is in harmony with Christ, who suffered on Calvary to vindicate and exalt the law before the universe.” —(*Signs of the Times*, July 21, 1890) *Faith and Works*, p. 95.

THE LAW IN RELATION TO GOD'S GOVERNMENT

- 1. Describe the scene of creation. Job 38:7; Psalm 19:1; 104:24; 111:2, 4.**

“God made man perfectly holy and happy; and the fair earth, as it came from the Creator’s hand, bore no blight of decay or shadow of the curse.” –*Steps to Christ*, p. 9.

“Before the entrance of evil there was peace and joy throughout the universe.... All heaven gave allegiance.” –*The Great Controversy*, p. 493 (see also p. 678).

- 2. What will all created beings voluntarily acknowledge after the great controversy is ended? In this context, for what is the time of grace given? Revelation 5:13.**

“The law of love being the foundation of the government of God, the happiness of all created beings depended upon their perfect accord with its great principles of righteousness. God desires from all His creatures the service of love—homage that springs from an intelligent appreciation of His character. He takes no pleasure in a forced allegiance, and to all He grants freedom of will, that they may render Him voluntary service.” –*The Great Controversy*, p. 493.

THE LAW IN RELATION TO THIS WORLD

- 3. What is the condition of the world today (note a few current events), and why? Matthew 24:12.**

The word translated as “iniquity” or “wickedness” in Matthew 24:12 is (Greek) “*Anomia*” and means “without” (*a*) “law” (*nomia*).

The *New English Bible* renders this text: “And as lawlessness spreads, men’s love for one another will grow cold.”

“It is transgression of God’s law—the law of love—that has brought woe and death.” –*Steps to Christ*, p. 9.

4. How is the law symbolized in Zechariah 5:1-4? According to verse 4, what must each household decide before Jesus comes?

One commandment from each side of the law is mentioned in Zechariah 5:3, 4, to represent the whole law.

“The law of God, plainly defined by Christ, is not so many separate precepts, some of which are of great importance, while others are of small importance, and may be belittled and ignored: Our Lord presents the first four and the last six commandments as a divine whole. Under the two heads, love to God and love to our neighbor, a divine unity binds all the precepts together. By these two principles man’s character is tested, and he is shown to be obedient or disobedient.” –*The Signs of the Times*, September 22, 1898.

5. What does the world need, and for what is Christ working? Matthew 5:13, 14; John 15:27; Philippians 2:15.

“The world needs today what it needed nineteen hundred years ago—a revelation of Christ. A great work of reform is demanded, and it is only through the grace of Christ that the work of restoration, physical, mental, and spiritual, can be accomplished.” –*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 143.

“What man needs today is the crucifixion of self and the revelation in his life of Christ, the hope of glory. Then will be fulfilled the words, ‘Ye are the light of the world.’ ” –*Signs of the Times*, July 26, 1905.

THE LAW IN RELATION TO THE SANCTUARY

6. Before Christ’s return to reward the faithful and judge the world in righteousness, what must be accomplished in the heavenly sanctuary? Revelation 3:5; Acts 3:19, 20; 2 Corinthians 5:10.

“The great work of the gospel is not to close with less manifestation of the power of God than marked its opening. The prophecies which were fulfilled in the outpouring of the former rain at the opening of the gospel,

are again to be fulfilled in the latter rain at its close. Here are ‘the times of refreshing’ to which the apostle Peter looked forward when he said, ‘Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out [in the investigative judgment], when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; and He shall send Jesus.’ [Acts 3:19, 20.]” –*The Great Controversy*, p. 611.

THE LAW IN RELATION TO THE CHURCH

7. Through whom and how will God reveal His law and character to the world? Daniel 12:3; John 16:7.

“How does Christ subdue His chosen people to Himself? It is by the power of His Holy Spirit; for the Holy Spirit, through the Scriptures, speaks to the mind, and impresses truth upon the hearts of men.... [John 16:7 quoted.]” –*Review and Herald*, January 30, 1894.

“It is because so little heed is given to the Lord’s special injunctions that darkness and temptation and trial are brought upon the church.

“The tithe is set apart for a special use. It is not to be regarded as a poor fund. It is to be especially devoted to the support of those who are bearing God’s message to the world; and it should not be diverted from this purpose.

“The great object of our work is to carry the light to those who are in darkness. Our work is world-wide.... If the pastors show that they are not fitted for their charge, if they fail to set before the church the importance of returning to God his own, if they do not see to it that the officers under them are faithful, and that the tithe is brought in, they are in peril. They are neglecting a matter which involves a blessing or a curse to the church. They should be relieved of their responsibility, and other men should be tested and tried.” –*Review and Herald*, December 1, 1896.

“When the churches become living, working churches, the Holy Spirit will be given in answer to their sincere request.” –*Ye Shall Receive Power*, p. 312.

THE LAW IN RELATION TO THE INDIVIDUAL

See Lesson 5.

SUMMARY

“The fact that the only-begotten Son of God gave His life because of man’s transgression, to satisfy justice and to vindicate the honor of God’s

law, should be constantly kept before the minds of children and youth. The object of this great sacrifice should also be kept before them; for it was to uplift fallen man degraded by sin that this great sacrifice was made. Christ suffered in order that through faith in Him our sins might be pardoned.”—*Fundamentals of Christian Education*, p. 370.

“1 John 3:4 quoted.] Here we have the true definition of sin; it is ‘the transgression of the law.’” —(*Signs of the Times*, June 20, 1895) *Faith and Works*, p. 117.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS SUBJECT

- Bible references: Psalm 119:126; Isaiah 8:16-20; chapters 41 and 51; 58:12-14; Joel 2:28, 29; John 5:22; James 1:25.
- Spirit of Prophecy references: *The Story of Redemption*, chapter 1 (pp. 13-19); *Early Writings*, pp. 145-152; *The Great Controversy*, chapters 1 (especially pp. 36-38), 29 (especially p. 493), and 42 (compare the very last paragraph with the first paragraph of *Patriarchs and Prophets*); *The Desire of Ages*, chapter 79 (especially pp. 761-764); *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, pp. 268-270; vol. 4, p. 139; vol. 5, pp. 452, 453; vol. 6, pp. 32, 33; *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, p. 430; *Selected Messages*, vol. 3. p. 396.

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Sabbath, August 3, 2002

God's Ultimate Objective *(Part 2)*

MEMORY VERSE

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do His commandments: His praise endureth for ever." Psalm 111: 10.

THEME

- God's dilemma—how to save the sinner without acting out of harmony with His own law.
- The five objectives are interrelated and mutually dependent.

OVERVIEW

"The great God has a law by which to govern His kingdom, and those who trample upon that law will one day find that they are amenable to its statutes. The remedy for transgression is not to be found in declaring that the law is abolished. To abolish the law would be to dishonor it, and to cast contempt upon the Lawgiver. The only escape for the transgressor of law is found in the Lord Jesus Christ; for through the grace and atonement of the only begotten Son of God, the sinner may be saved and the law vindicated." —*The Youth's Instructor*, February 7, 1895.

THE GOSPEL DILEMMA

- 1. How can God save those whom His law condemns and yet not go against His own law? Romans 3:26; 7:18, 7, 9.**

"[Romans 7:7 quoted.] Saul did not commence a raid against the law in order to justify a life of sin; but when his mind was enlightened in regard to the claims of the law of God, he saw himself a sinner, a transgressor of the law. His sins were brought before him, and what was the result? Did he commence a tirade against the law which showed him that

he was a transgressor? Is it in his heart to crucify that law? Oh no! he crucified the carnal mind which rises in enmity against the law of God. 'Sin revived,' says Paul, 'and I,' not the law, 'died.' [Romans 7:9] Oh! when will professed Christians awake to see the brink of the precipice they are standing upon in refusing to acknowledge the claims of the law of God?"
—*Review and Herald*, March 8, 1870.

2. How does inspiration describe this? Galatians 2:20; Romans 6:7; 1 Corinthians 15:36.

"He who would build a strong, symmetrical character, who would be a well-balanced Christian, must begin at the foundation. He must crucify self. He must give all and do all for Christ; for the Redeemer accepts no divided service. Daily he must learn the meaning of self-surrender. He must study the word of God, getting its meaning, and seeking to carry out its precepts. Thus he may reach the highest standard of Christian excellence. There is no limit to the spiritual advancement we may make if we are partakers of the divine nature."—*The Youth's Instructor*, May 16, 1901.

THE LAW IN RELATION TO THE INDIVIDUAL

3. Who is responsible for me? 2 Kings 14:6; Philippians 2:12, 13; Colossians 3:3; 2 Corinthians 9:15.

"Let there be a work of reformation and repentance. Let all seek for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. As with the disciples after the ascension of Christ, it may require several days of earnestly seeking God and putting away of sin.

"When God's people are worked by the Holy Spirit, they will manifest a zeal that is according to knowledge.... They will reflect the light that God has been giving for years. The spirit of criticism will be put away. Filled with the spirit of humility, they will be of one mind, united with one another and with Christ."—*My Life Today*, p. 58.

"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 greater degree, must be done now."—*The Faith I Live By*, p. 333.

4. For the church to complete her mission, what must happen in and among the individual members? Matthew 5:23, 24; 18:20-22; Luke 11:9-13; John 7:39.

“When in the spirit of Jesus we try to press together, putting ourselves out of sight, we shall find that the Holy Spirit will come in, and the blessing of God will rest upon us.”—*The General Conference Bulletin*, April 10, 1901.

“As we seek God for the Holy Spirit, it will work in us meekness, humbleness of mind, a conscious dependence upon God for the perfecting latter rain. If we pray for the blessing in faith, we shall receive it as God has promised.”—*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 508.

“Are we awake to the work that is going on in the heavenly sanctuary, or are we waiting for some compelling power to come upon the church before we shall arouse? Are we hoping to see the whole church revived? That time will never come.”—*Selected Messages*, vol. 1, p. 122.

5. Before the work in the heavenly sanctuary can be finished, for what and how must the church prepare? Isaiah 52:11; Revelation 11:19; 3:18, 20; 1 Peter 4:17; Zechariah 10:1.

“The church cannot measure herself by the world nor by the opinion of men nor by what she once was. Her faith and her position in the world as they now are must be compared with what they would have been if her course had been continually onward and upward. The church will be weighed in the balances of the sanctuary. If her moral character and spiritual state do not correspond with the benefits and blessings God has conferred upon her, she will be found wanting.”—*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 83.

“If in this opportune time the members of the churches will come humbly before God, putting out of their hearts all that is wrong and consulting Him at every step, He will manifest Himself to them and will give them courage in Him. And as the church members do their part faithfully, the Lord will lead and guide His chosen ministers, and strengthen them for their important work. In much prayer let us all unite in holding up their hands and in drawing bright beams from the heavenly sanctuary.”—*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 9, p. 134.

6. Before the Lord comes to earth, what work must He finish in the sanctuary? Daniel 12:1; Revelation 21:27; 22:11, 12.

“Every case had been decided for life or death. While Jesus had been ministering in the sanctuary, the judgment had been going on for the righteous dead, and then for the righteous living. Christ had received His kingdom, having made the atonement for His people and blotted out their sins. The subjects of the kingdom were made up. The marriage of the Lamb was consummated. And the kingdom, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, was given to Jesus and the heirs of salvation, and Jesus was to reign as King of kings and Lord of lords.”—*Early Writings*, p. 280.

7. Before God’s kingdom is completely restored in the universe, what must happen on earth? Revelation 20:11-21:1; Exodus 32:32; Matthew 16:27; 10:28.

FOR REFLECTION

- Is the church here to serve the individual, or is the individual here to serve the church?
- What must the church not fail to do with members who persistently put personal ambition above God’s interests?

SUMMARY

“Christ came into the world to bring all resistance and authority into subjection to Himself, but He did not claim obedience through the strength of argument or the voice of command; He went about doing good and teaching His followers the things which belonged to their peace.”—*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 139.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS SUBJECT

- Bible references: Job 25:4; Psalm 143:2; Romans 6 (especially verses 7, 22, 23); 1 Corinthians 15:31; Deuteronomy 24:16; Ezekiel 18:4, 20; Matthew 6:14; Romans 12:21; James 5:9; 1 Peter 2:22, 23; 1 Corinthians 3:8; Galatians 6:7; John 5:28, 29; Isaiah 48:18; Luke 19:42; Romans 9:28.

- Spirit of Prophecy references: *Early Writings*, pp. 66-68, 36-38, 48-52, 268-273; *The Great Controversy*, Introduction; *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, pp. 555, 399, 400, 437; vol. 5, pp. 162, 159, 231, 470, 471; vol. 6, pp. 59, 60, 67, 90, 85, 225, 292, 392, 437; vol. 8, pp. 22, 287.

6

Sabbath, August 10, 2002

God's Footstool Becomes the Place of His Throne

MEMORY VERSE

"Heaven is My throne, and earth is My footstool: what house will ye build Me? saith the Lord: or what is the place of My rest?" Acts 7:49.

THEME

- God's work in reclaiming the earth.
- The fruit of sin in the earth.
- God's just judgment.

OVERVIEW

	Second coming	New Jerusalem
Earth enlightened:	1,000 years	God's throne set
Christ Our Righteousness	Sabbath rest	Earth recreated
Some accept / most reject	Silence in the earth	Earth reclaimed
	Earth dies	Cleansed by fire

PLANET EARTH AND SIN

1. **What will God do in the earth before men are judged? 2 Corinthians 4:6; Ezekiel 43:2; Romans 5:20, 13.**

“Men will be judged according to the measure of light given them. None will be accountable for their darkness and their errors if the light has not been brought to them. They have not sinned in not accepting what has not been given them. All will be tested before Jesus leaves His position in the most holy place. The probation of all closes when the pleading for sinners is ended and the garments of vengeance are put on.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2, p. 691.

2. **What will happen to those who refuse to prepare for the “refreshing [that] shall come from the presence of the Lord” (Acts 3:19)? 1 Chronicles 16:14; Revelation 15:8.**

3. **What will sin eventually cause to happen on this earth? Isaiah 24:19, 20; Luke 17:26; Genesis 6:17, last part.**

PLANET EARTH RESTORED

4. **What will the earth receive after 6,000 years of sin? What did the Babylonian captivity prefigure? Leviticus 26:34; 2 Chronicles 36:21.**

5. **Before the earth can be restored (made new), what must be done to it? Numbers 35:33, 34; Malachi 4:1; Zechariah 14:4.**

“From this mountain [the mount of olives] He was to ascend to heaven. Upon its summit His feet will rest when He shall come again [to claim it as His own].” –*The Desire of Ages*, p. 829.

Note: To place one’s shoe or foot on something meant to claim it as one’s own; to take it off of something was the acknowledgment that it was NOT his property. See Deuteronomy 1:36; 25:9, 10.

6. After it is cleansed and reclaimed, what will planet earth become? Isaiah 45:18; Revelation 21:22, 23.

“God created the earth to be the abode of holy, happy beings. That purpose will be fulfilled when, renewed by the power of God, and freed from sin and sorrow, it shall become the eternal home of the redeemed.”
—*Review and Herald*, October 22, 1908.

SUMMARY

7. What did Jesus strive for? By faith, what did He see would be accomplished through His offering for sin and sinners? Ephesians 1:14; Isaiah 33:24.

“The Son of God passed through the portals of the tomb, that ‘through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil.’ Hebrews 2:14....

“The great controversy is ended. Sin and sinners are no more. The entire universe is clean. One pulse of harmony and gladness beats through the vast creation.” —*The Great Controversy*, pp. 503, 678.

“One rich tide of happiness will flow and deepen as eternity rolls on. Think of this; tell it to the children of suffering and sorrow, and bid them rejoice in hope.

“The nearer we come to Jesus, the more clearly we behold the purity and greatness of His character, the less we shall feel like exalting self. The contrast between our characters and His will lead to humiliation of soul and deep heart searching. The more we love Jesus, the more entirely will self be humbled and forgotten....

“He who is meek in spirit, he who is purest and most childlike, will be made strong for the battle.” —*The Upward Look*, p. 46.

- Reflect on the following statement in the light of this lesson:

“[Matthew 5:48 quoted.] As God is perfect in His sphere, so man may be perfect in his sphere. Whatever the hand finds to do should be done with thoroughness and dispatch. Faithfulness and integrity in little things, the performance of little duties and little deeds of kindness, will cheer and gladden the pathway of life; and when our work on earth is ended, every one of the little duties performed with fidelity will be treasured as a precious gem before God.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 591.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS SUBJECT

- Bible references: Psalm 37:29; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 2 Thessalonians 2:8; Revelation 6:14-17; Jeremiah 4:23-27 (also, compare Genesis 1:1, 2 with Revelation 9:1, 2, 11; 17:8; 20:1-3, for the Hebrew word meaning “without form and void” is equivalent to the Greek word for “bottomless pit”); Isaiah 24; Revelation 20:4; 22:12, 14; 3:21; 2:7; Matthew 19:28; 1 Corinthians 6:2, 3; Revelation 20:7-9; 21:2, 10; 21:1, 3, 4; John 14:1-3; Isaiah 11, 35, 65:17-19, 21-25; 66:22-24; Zechariah 9:16, 17; Ephesians 2:7; 3:10, 11.
 - Spirit of Prophecy references: *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 424; *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, pp. 225, 67 (compare with *The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 306, 307), 59, 392, 393; vol. 8, pp. 22, 23; *Steps to Christ*, pp. 18-20; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 67, 430-432, 754 (with Acts 13:34-39 as opposed to Jeremiah 28:15-17 and 29:32); *The Great Controversy*, chapter 42 (especially p. 674); *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 22, 23, 26, 129, 430, 480, 739; *Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 384.
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Christ, Our High Priest

MEMORY VERSE

“Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man.” Hebrews 8:1, 2.

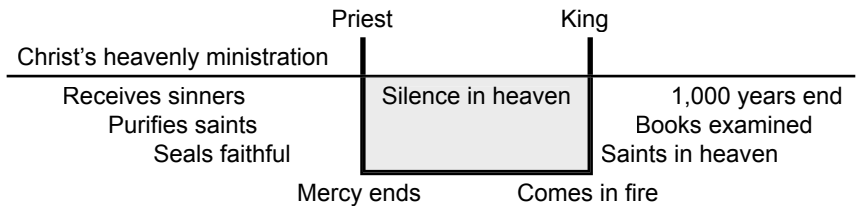
THEME

- Lesson 6 looked at the plan of salvation from the point of view of the earth.
- Here we will look at what our High Priest is doing in heaven.
- We will examine what must happen before the earth is cleansed (Lesson 6).

INTRODUCTION

“If man had kept the law of God, as given to Adam after his fall, preserved by Noah, and observed by Abraham, there would have been no necessity for the ordinance of circumcision. And if the descendants of Abraham had kept the covenant, of which circumcision was a sign, they would never have been seduced into idolatry, nor would it have been necessary for them to suffer a life of bondage in Egypt; they would have kept God’s law in mind, and there would have been no necessity for it to be proclaimed from Sinai or engraved upon the tables of stone. And had the people practiced the principles of the Ten Commandments, there would have been no need of the additional directions given to Moses.” –*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 364.

OVERVIEW



VOCABULARY

- “*Silence in the earth*” (from Lesson 6) is earth’s millennial rest from sin.
- “*Silence in heaven*” (Revelation 8:1) is the short time during which all the heavenly angels will accompany Jesus to earth at His second coming (Matthew 25:31).
- “*Earthly ministry*” is symbolized by the court (eastern square of the sanctuary) and includes the Passover and Pentecost.
- “*Heavenly ministry*” is symbolized by the services that took place within the tabernacle itself (western square of the sanctuary) and includes the daily administration and atonement.¹

Note: This lesson covers the first half of the *Overview* chart at the left. In lesson 6 we already covered the second part, concerning Christ’s coming and the final judgment.

CHRIST’S EARTHLY MINISTRY

1. What did Jesus need to do to become our High Priest? John 1:14; Romans 8:3; Hebrews 5:1, 2; 7:25, 26.

“His offering is complete, and as our Intercessor He executes His self-appointed work, holding before God the censer containing His own spotless merits and the prayers, confessions, and thanksgiving of His people. Perfumed with the fragrance of His righteousness, these ascend to God as a sweet savor. The offering is wholly acceptable, and pardon covers all transgression.

“Christ has pledged Himself to be our substitute and surety, and He neglects no one.”—*Christ’s Object Lessons*, pp. 156, 157.

2. Through what means did God foretell the Messiah’s mission and work? According to Hebrews 8:5-7 and other texts, what do we know about some of that work?

¹ The Feast of Tabernacles symbolized (was the type of) God’s people in the new earth and was celebrated outside the tabernacle—see Lesson 6 and Leviticus 23:34-44; Deuteronomy 16:13-17; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chapter 46; *The Desire of Ages*, chapter 49.

3. What value did the ritual ceremonies, cast in shadows (Greek, *tupos*), have for today? Colossians 2:14-17; Hebrews 9:9; 1 Corinthians 10:11.

“In His teaching, Christ sought to educate and train the Jews to see the object of that which was to be abolished by the true offering of Himself, the living Sacrifice....

“Christ’s prediction regarding the destruction of the temple [Matthew 24:1, 2] was a lesson on the purification of religion, by making of none effect forms and ceremonies. He announced Himself greater than the temple [Matthew 12:6], and stood forth proclaiming, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life.’ [John 14:6.] He was the one in whom all the Jewish ceremony and typical service was to find its fulfillment. He stood forth in the place of the temple; *all the offices of the church centered in Himself alone....*

“These lessons Christ gave in His teaching, showing that the ritual service was passing away, and possessed no virtue.” —*Fundamentals of Christian Education*, p. 399.

“Through Christ was fulfilled the purpose of which the tabernacle was a symbol.” —*Education*, p. 36.

CHRIST’S HEAVENLY MINISTRY

4. Where has Jesus been since His ascension, and what is He doing there? Hebrews 8:1-3; 1 John 2:1; Revelation 1:10-20.

“[Acts 20:21 quoted.] Paul had ever exalted the divine law. He had shown that in the law there is no power to save men from the penalty of disobedience. Wrongdoers must repent of their sins and humble themselves before God, whose just wrath they have incurred by breaking His law, and they must also exercise faith in the blood of Christ as their only means of pardon. The Son of God had died as their sacrifice and had ascended to heaven to stand before the Father as their advocate. By repentance and faith they might be freed from the condemnation of sin and through the grace of Christ be enabled henceforth to render obedience to the law of God.” —*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 393.

5. **What is the purpose of everything He allows His body, the church, to go through? Isaiah 27:6; 30:20; John 15:2; Revelation 7:1-3.**

6. **How did the Holy Spirit signify that a genuine spiritual cleansing would take place through the true gospel? Hebrews 9:8, 14.**

SUMMARY

7. **When will Christ reach His ultimate objective in the sanctuary? Song of Solomon 6:10; 1 Corinthians 6:17.**

“Only as they were united with Christ could the disciples hope to have the accompanying power of the Holy Spirit and the cooperation of angels of heaven. With the help of these divine agencies they would present before the world a united front and would be victorious in the conflict they were compelled to wage unceasingly against the powers of darkness. As they should continue to labor unitedly, heavenly messengers would go before them, opening the way; hearts would be prepared for the reception of truth, and many would be won to Christ.” —*The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 90, 91.

FOR REFLECTION

- What will Christ do in the heavenly sanctuary as soon as His people are fully reconciled to God and to one another?
- What am I doing (or not doing) that hinders Christ from completing His heavenly mission?
- To what extent is the church responsible for delaying Jesus' coming?

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS SUBJECT

- Bible references: Ephesians 1:19-23; 2:4-7; Colossians 3:1; Hebrews 4:15; 8:5; 9:10-13; 10:12, 13; 12:2; 1 Peter 3:22; 1 John 1:7-9; 2:1, 2; Romans 3:25; 5:6-11; 8:34; 11:33; 14:21; 15:4; 1 Corinthians 10:6, 11; 15:21, 22; Acts 7:44; Leviticus 23:29, 30; 16:20, 21, 30, 33; Malachi 3:3; Ephesians 5:27; 2 Corinthians 11:2; Revelation 19:7.
 - Spirit of Prophecy references: *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 23, 141, 142, 166, 306; *Education*, p. 36; *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 469; vol. 8, p. 246; *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, pp. 398, 399; *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, p. 133; vol. 5, pp. 520, 575; vol. 8, p. 287; *The Ministry of Healing*, pp. 142, 143, 148, 149; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 358, 355, 356.
 - Other sources: *The Book of Hebrews*, by M. L. Andreasen; *Practical Lessons and Messiah in His Sanctuary*, by F. C. Gilbert; *The Cross and Its Shadow*, by S. N. Haskell; *Shadows of His Sacrifice*, by Leslie G. Hardinge.
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His Church, His Body



MEMORY VERSE

“Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as He is, so are we in this world.” 1 John 4:17.

THEME

- The church is Christ’s representative in the world, but not of the world. John 17:16.
- What Christ needs from His church to finish His heavenly ministration.

OVERVIEW

	 Early Rain	 Latter Rain
Receives Christ’s righteousness	Resting in Christ	Reveals Christ
Revival of missionary spirit Repents Confesses Christ	Out of Babylon No earthly methods	Diversity of gifts Unity of purpose Christ centered
	Dead to the world	Cleansed by obedience
	Practices faith that works by love	

THE CHURCH, GOD’S MESSENGER

1. By what figures are the church and its leadership represented in Zechariah? What does it need? Zechariah 3:2, 3, 7, 8, 4.

[Zechariah 3:8 quoted.] Here is revealed the hope of Israel. It was by faith in the coming Saviour that Joshua and his people received pardon. Through faith in Christ they were restored to God’s favor. By virtue of His merits, if they walked in His ways and kept His statutes, they would be

‘men wondered at,’ honored as the chosen of heaven among the nations of the earth. Christ was their hope, their defense, their justification and redemption, as He is the hope of His church today....

“Christ’s followers should be instruments of righteousness, workmen, living stones, emitting light, that they may encourage the presence of heavenly angels. They are required to be channels, as it were, through which the spirit of truth and righteousness shall flow....

“...Be clear and centered upon the one object of saving souls.” --*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 469; vol. 2, pp. 126, 127; vol. 4, p. 265.

2. How did Christ picture His church in Matthew 13:47-50?

“There are in our churches those who profess the truth who are only hindrances to the work of reform. They are clogs to the wheels of the car of salvation. This class are frequently in trial. Doubts, jealousies, and suspicion are the fruits of selfishness, and seem to be interwoven with their very natures. I shall name this class chronic church grumblers. They do more harm in a church than two ministers can undo....

“The very best way for ministers and churches is to let this faultfinding, crooked class fall back into their own element, and pull away from the shore, launch out into the deep, and cast out the gospel net again for fish that may pay for the labor bestowed upon them.... They [ministers] should fasten believing Christians on Christ, who is able to hold them up and preserve them blameless unto His appearing, while they go forth to new fields of labor.” --*Evangelism*, pp. 370-372.

3. When Christ ascended to heaven, what tools did He give His church for carrying out the gospel commission (Matthew 28:18-20)? Ephesians 4:8, 11, 12; Romans 12:5-8.

“Every follower of Jesus has a work to do as a missionary for Christ, in the family, in the neighborhood, in the town or city where he lives. All who are consecrated to God are channels of light. God makes them instruments of righteousness to communicate to others the light of truth.” --*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2, p. 632.

4. For the church to fulfill its task, what must it constantly be doing? Leviticus 10:10, 11; 2 Timothy 2:2, 15; 1 Peter 3:15.

“We must educate, educate, educate, pleasantly and intelligently. We must preach the truth, pray the truth, and live the truth, bringing it, with its gracious, health-giving influences, within the reach of those who know it not. As the sick are brought into touch with the Life-giver, their faculties of mind and body will be renewed. But in order for this to be, they must practice self-denial, and be temperate in all things. Thus only can they be saved from physical and spiritual death, and restored to health.” –*Evangelism*, p. 528.

“It is one thing to join the church, and quite another thing to be united to Christ.” –*Messages to Young People*, p. 357.

5. What kind of genuine higher education did Jesus conduct while He was on earth? John 8:2; Luke 10:1.

[Matthew 9:13 quoted.] He [Christ] presented a pure character as of supreme importance. He dispensed with all pomp, demanding that faith that works by love and purifies the soul, as the only qualification required for the kingdom of heaven. He taught that true religion does not consist in forms or ceremonies, outward attractions or outward display. Christ would have taken these to Himself if they had been essential in the formation of a character after the divine similitude. But His citizenship, His divine authority, rested upon His own intrinsic merits. He, the Majesty of heaven, walked the earth, shrouded in the robe of humanity. All His attractions and triumphs were to be revealed in behalf of man, and were to testify to His living connection with God.” –*Fundamentals of Christian Education*, p. 398.

6. Where does such education begin? Psalm 144:12; Ephesians 6:1-4.

“Our work for Christ is to begin with the family, in the home. There is no missionary field more important than this. By precept and example parents are to teach their children to labor for the unconverted. The children should be so educated that they will sympathize with the aged and afflicted, and will seek to alleviate the sufferings of the poor and distressed.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 429.

“Our households must be set in order, and earnest efforts must be made to interest every member of the family in missionary enterprises. We must seek to engage the sympathies of our children in earnest work for the unsaved, that they may do their best at all times and in all places to represent Christ.” –(*Review and Herald*, July 4, 1893) *Christian Service*, p. 207.

“The Lord has appointed the youth to be His helping hand.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 7, p. 64.

SUMMARY

7. What is Christ offering us? What is the church to do? What does that mean? Isaiah 52:1, 2; Jeremiah 33:16.

“Christ longed to be in a position where He could accomplish the most important work by few and simple means. The plan of redemption is comprehensive; but its parts are few, and each part depends on the others, while all work together with the utmost simplicity and in entire harmony. Christ is represented by the Holy Spirit; and when this Spirit is appreciated, when those controlled by the Spirit communicate to others the energy with which they are imbued, an invisible chord is touched which electrifies the whole. Would that we could all understand how boundless are the divine resources.” –(*Southern Watchman*, November 28, 1905) *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 6, p. 1053.

“Talent is best developed where it is most needed.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 89.

“Let your light shine, and other lights will be kindled.” –*Gospel Workers*, p. 195.

ASSIGNMENT AND REFLECTION

Romans 12 reveals practical Christianity. From the list of seven gifts imparted to the church (verses 5-8), name the one you think is yours. Evaluate this in the light of verses 9-19. (In other words, can you use that talent to fulfill any of those requirements?) Ask a close friend what s/he thinks your gift is. What gives you the greatest joy in the Lord?

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS SUBJECT

- Bible references: 2 Chronicles 15:3; Isaiah 41; 51; 58; 60; 61:1, 2; 64:6; Revelation 19:8; Deuteronomy 4:9, 10; 6:7; 11:19; 2 Chronicles 15:3; Ezra 7:10; Psalm 25:4, 5; 27; 28; 51:12, 13; 86:11; 105 and 106 as a unit.
- Spirit of Prophecy references: *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 593-596; *Prophets and Kings*, pp. 639, 716; *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2, pp. 122, 123, 126, 127, 631, 632; vol. 4, pp. 138, 384-386, 421, 422, 550-552, 609, 610; vol. 5, pp. 462, 463, 469; vol. 6, pp. 89, 109, 115, 198, 416, 429; 435-438, 450; vol. 9, pp. 20, 21, 25, 29, 37, 38, 118, 119, 130; *Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 345; *Education*, pp. 262, 270, 271; *Evangelism*, p. 528; *Ministry of Healing*, pp. 36, 349, 401; *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, pp. 16, 17; *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 141, 142, 306, 328, 329, 567; *The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 27, 28, 90, 109, 122, 207, 208; *Gospel Workers*, pp. 29, 210, 211.

9

Sabbath, August 31, 2002

The Meaning of Church Membership

MEMORY VERSE

“Remember Thy congregation, which Thou hast purchased of old; the rod of Thine inheritance, which Thou hast redeemed; this mount Zion, wherein Thou hast dwelt.” Psalm 74:2.

THEME

- God has always had a people to be His faithful witnesses in the earth.
- What it means to be a member of God's faithful people.
- The promises to ancient Israel will be fulfilled in God's true people at the end of time.

OVERVIEW

“God’s faithful people have always been aggressive missionaries, consecrating their resources to the honor of His name and wisely using their talents in His service.” –*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 109.

VOCABULARY

Church, Greek *ekklesia*, a compound of *ek* (out) and *kaleo* (to call)—hence, “the called out.” The church is therefore defined as “the Christian community of members on earth, in heaven or both.” Usually translated “church” or “assembly” (in the NT Greek). The Old Testament (LXX) usually translates the 115 occurrences of the Hebrew *qahal* into Greek as *ekklesia*. Another word for “congregation” or “assembly” in the Old Testament is the Hebrew *edah* and is the word translated “congregation” in our memory verse (Psalm 74:2). A closely related word means “witness” or “testimony.”

Oracle, Greek *logion*. An *utterance* (of God) as in an eloquent (*logios*) language; from Logos, which is what Christ was. He was the *logos* (*word* or *oracle* of God) made flesh.

“THE CHURCH IN THE WILDERNESS” (ACTS 7:38), OF THE COURTYARD.

- 1. After Abraham had lived in Canaan for 40 years, what did God reveal to him? Genesis 22:1-18. Through this experience, what else was revealed through him? Hebrews 4:2, first part; 11:17-19.**

“God has always tried His people in the furnace of affliction, in order to prove them firm and true, and purge them from all unrighteousness. After Abraham and his son had borne the severest test that could be imposed upon them, God spoke through His angel unto Abraham, ‘Now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from Me.’ This great act of faith causes the character of Abraham to shine forth with remarkable luster. It forcibly illustrates his perfect confidence in the Lord, from whom he withheld nothing, not even the son of promise.” –*Review and Herald*, June 16, 1885.

- 2. Four hundred and thirty years after God called Abraham out of Babylon, He called Israel out of Egypt. Exodus 12:41, 51. What did He give them shortly afterward, and what did that make them? Romans 3:1, 2; Psalm 19:7.**

“[Genesis 26:5 and 18:19 quoted.] It was a high honor to which Abraham was called, that of being the father of the people who for centuries were the guardians and preservers of the truth of God for the world—of that people through whom all the nations of the earth should be blessed in the advent of the promised Messiah.” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 140, 141.

Besides the law, which Israel held in collective trust and which constituted them a nation, they also received the sanctuary with its services and ceremonies, which pointed to the Promised One (Deuteronomy 18:15, 18; Exodus 25:8; John 1:21, 25).

- 3. Despite all the promises of God to Israel (Jeremiah 17:24, 25; 2 Chronicles 33:4, etc.), what did the people in general not appreciate? John 1:11; 1 Corinthians 2:8; Revelation 22:14.**

THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY PLACE

- 4. Fifty days after Jesus became our Passover (1 Corinthians 5:7), what did God confirm? Acts 2:2-4.**

Note: In giving the gift of the Holy Spirit, God the Father confirmed the organization (the church) which Jesus had begun when He called and ordained the 12 disciples. At Pentecost, all who believed Jesus to be God’s Son accepted baptism to signify that they were the “called out people of God,” spiritual Israel, and heirs of the promises. Thus began the Christian church. Acts 2:38, 47.

“While Jesus ministers in the sanctuary above, He is still by His Spirit the minister of the church on earth.” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 166.

- 5. What will God accomplish through spiritual Israel that He could not do through Israel of the flesh? Isaiah 43:10-12; 42:6, 7; 56:7; Ezekiel 34:26.**

“The church is God’s appointed agency for the salvation of men. It was organized for service, and its mission is to carry the gospel to the world. From the beginning it has been God’s plan that through His church shall

be reflected to the world His fullness and His sufficiency. The members of the church, those whom He has called out of darkness into His marvelous light, are to show forth His glory. The church is the repository of the riches of the grace of Christ; and through the church will eventually be made manifest, even to 'the principalities and powers in heavenly places,' the final and full display of the love of God. Ephesians 3:10." —*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 9.

THE CHURCH OF THE MOST HOLY PLACE

- 6. What messages has heaven given to (and through) God's remnant people? Revelation 3:17-20; 14:6-12.**

- 7. By contrast, by what method or means will Babylon seek to solve the world's problems? Revelation 13:16, 17 (see also Daniel 3:6).**

"It was right for the king to make public confession, and to seek to exalt the God of heaven above all other gods; but in endeavoring to force his subjects to make a similar confession of faith and to show similar reverence, Nebuchadnezzar was exceeding his right as a temporal sovereign. He had no more right, either civil or moral, to threaten men with death for not worshipping God, than he had to make a decree consigning to the flames all who refused to worship the golden image. God never compels the obedience of man. He leaves all free to choose whom they will serve." —*Prophets and Kings*, pp. 510, 511.

FOR REFLECTION

The Spirit of Prophecy warns us against using "erroneous methods and practices" or "falling into error through [the use of the] wrong principles or methods" of Babylon. —*Review and Herald*, May 2 1899; *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 7, p. 248.

Contrast how God works as opposed to how Satan works. Can moral issues be resolved by decree? Hint: the Decalogue contains THE ten moral precepts. The methods of Babylon are the exact opposite. Understanding and living by the spiritual nature of the law (Matthew 5:27-32, 43-48; Romans 7:14) is the only way to detect the methods of Babylon and, by the grace and in the spirit of Christ, to resist them.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS SUBJECT

- Bible references: Daniel 7:10-13; Amos 4:12; Ephesians 2:8-14; 1 Corinthians 12:1, 4, 8-10; James 2:17; Isaiah 8:20; Revelation 17:17; 18:1-4; 19:10; 22:17.
- Spirit of Prophecy references: *The Desire of Ages*, p. 193; *The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 49, 50.

10

Sabbath, September 7, 2002

The King Who Lost His Crown

MEMORY VERSE

“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.” Romans 5:12.

THEME

- Man is not only the crown of creation but also the object of redemption.
- The record of inspiration is the history of God’s love constantly seeking to redeem His wayward children.

MAN’S ORIGIN

1. **What celestial decree heralded the rise of a new form of created beings? Genesis 1:26.**

“Infinite love—how great it is! God made the world to enlarge heaven. He desires a larger family of created intelligences. (*Manuscript 78*, 1901.)

“All heaven took a deep and joyful interest in the creation of the world and of man. Human beings were a new and distinct order. They were made ‘in the image of God,’ and it was the Creator’s design that they should populate the earth.”—(*Review and Herald*, February 11, 1902) *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 1, p. 1081.

- 2. Unlike the manner in which everything else had been created (see Genesis 1:6-21, “And God said..., and it was so”), how was man made and in what glorious image? Psalm 33: 6, 9; Genesis 2:7.**

The Hebrew of Genesis 2:7 is a formula:

The body + the breath of God = living soul

- 3. What high position was the first man given? Psalm 8:5, 6; Ecclesiastes 7:29.**

“Before the fall of Adam, not a cloud rested on the mind of our first parents to obscure their clear perception of the divine character of God. They were perfectly conformed to the will of God.”—*Healthful Living*, p. 288.

Genesis 1:27. “It was possible for Adam, before the fall, to form a righteous character by obedience to God’s law.”—*Steps to Christ*, p. 62.

Psalm 8:5. “The sinless pair wore no artificial garments; they were clothed with a covering of light and glory, such as the angels wear.”—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 45.

Genesis 2:15. “In the garden were trees of every variety, many of them laden with fragrant and delicious fruit. On their branches the birds caroled their songs of praise. Adam and Eve, in their untainted purity, delighted in the sights and sounds of Eden.”—*Healthful Living*, p. 266.

Genesis 2:16. “The first Adam was a free moral agent.”—*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 18, p. 113.

“Holy angels often visited the garden, and gave instruction to Adam and Eve concerning their employment and also taught them concerning the rebellion and fall of Satan. The angels warned them of Satan.”—*Early Writings*, p. 147.

Genesis 1:26, 28. “At his creation Adam was placed in dominion over the earth.”—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 67.

“Adam was crowned as king in Eden.”—*Review and Herald*, February 24, 1874.

THE KING WHO WAS CONQUERED

- 4. Through unbelief, to what state did Adam come? What else changed because of his rebellion? Romans 5:12; 1 Corinthians 15:21.**

“As related to the first Adam, men receive from him nothing but guilt and the sentence of death...” [Quotation continued below].

THE KING WHO CONQUERED

- 5. To save and restore man, what did God do? John 3:16; Romans 5:11, 18.**

[Quotation from question 4 continued] “But Christ steps in and passes over the ground where Adam fell, enduring every test in man’s behalf. He redeems Adam’s disgraceful failure and fall by coming forth from the trial untarnished. This places man on vantage ground with God. It places him where, through accepting Christ as his Saviour, he becomes a partaker of the divine nature. Thus he becomes connected with God and Christ.” – (Letter 68, 1899) *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 6, p. 1074.

- 6. What kind of faith will be demonstrated by those who are saved? What else will be restored? Galatians 5:6; 1 John 3:3; 5:1, 4.**

“In His teaching, Christ ... dispensed with all pomp, demanding that faith that works by love and purifies the soul, as the only qualification required for the kingdom of heaven.... All His attractions and triumphs were to be revealed in behalf of man, and were to testify to His living connection with God.” –*Fundamentals of Christian Education*, p. 398.

“The religion that comes from God is the only religion that will lead to God. In order to serve Him aright, we must be born of the divine Spirit.” –*The Desire of Ages*, p. 189.

“Every line of Christian experience and labor is to be a representation of the life of Christ.” –*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 384.

7. What effect does the individual have upon the church and God's purpose for it? **Philippians 3:18, 19; Ephesians 4:12-17.**

"We have far more to fear from within than from without. The hindrances to strength and success are far greater from the church itself than from the world. Unbelievers have a right to expect that those who profess to be keeping the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, will do more than any other class to promote and honor, by their consistent lives, by their godly example and their active influence, the cause which they represent. But how often have the professed advocates of the truth proved the greatest obstacle to its advancement! The unbelief indulged, the doubts expressed, the darkness cherished, encourage the presence of evil angels, and open the way for the accomplishment of Satan's devices." —*Selected Messages*, vol. 1, p. 122.

"God's love for His church is infinite. His care over His heritage is unceasing. He suffers no affliction to come upon the church but such as is essential for her purification, her present and eternal good. He will purify His church even as He purified the temple at the beginning and close of His ministry on earth. All that He brings upon the church in test and trial comes that His people may gain deeper piety and more strength to carry the triumphs of the cross to all parts of the world." —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 9, p. 228.

SUMMARY

"The cherubim of the earthly sanctuary, looking reverently down upon the mercy seat, represent the interest with which the heavenly host contemplate the work of redemption. This is the mystery of mercy into which angels desire to look—that God can be just while He justifies the repenting sinner and renews His intercourse with the fallen race; that Christ could stoop to raise unnumbered multitudes from the abyss of ruin and clothe them with the spotless garments of His own righteousness to unite with angels who have never fallen and to dwell forever in the presence of God." —*The Great Controversy*, p. 415.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS SUBJECT

- Bible references: Romans 1:16, 17; 2:15, 20-22, 24-29; 8:9, 14; Ephesians 2:6-10; 5:9, 10; 2 Timothy 3:1-7, 13; 1 Kings 8:61; Matthew 5:48; 19:26; John 3:18, 36; 6:29; 8:31, 32, 34; 1 John 3:3, 6, 9; 2:29; Romans 8:37; 12:1, 2; 1 Corinthians 15:57; 2 Corinthians 5:7, 14, 17, 19-21; 8:9; 12:9.

- Spirit of Prophecy references: *Education*, pp. 26, 125, 126; *The Great Controversy*, pp. 415, 416.
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11

Sabbath, September 14, 2002

His Work for Man

MEMORY VERSE

“For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that ye through His poverty might be rich.”
2 Corinthians 8:9.

THEME

- When God created man, He gave him four things:
 1. Life
 2. Righteous character (innocence)
 3. Eden home
 4. Dominion over the earth
- Through sin, these four things were lost.
- Through Christ, they will be fully restored to man.

OVERVIEW

“In order to understand what is comprehended in the work of education, we need to consider both the nature of man and the purpose of God in creating him. We need to consider also the change in man’s condition through the coming in of a knowledge of evil, and God’s plan for still fulfilling His glorious purpose in the education of the human race.” –*Education*, pp. 14, 15.

1. LIFE–JUSTIFICATION

A. Man received life from God on condition of obedience (Genesis 2:7, 16, 17). How did man forfeit this gift, and what was the result? Genesis 3:6, 17, 19; 1 Corinthians 15:22, first part; Romans 6:23, first part.

- B. What way and conditions did God provide for His first gift to be restored? John 3:16; 1 Corinthians 15:22, last part; Romans 6:23, last part.**

2. RIGHTEOUS CHARACTER—SANCTIFICATION

- A. The second thing man received from God was a righteous character (Genesis 1:26; Ecclesiastes 7:29, first part). What has been man's natural condition since he rebelled? Romans 5:12; 7:17; Ephesians 2:1-3.**

“The eyes of Adam and Eve were opened, but to what? To see their own shame and ruin, to realize that the garments of heavenly light that had been their protection were no longer around them as a safeguard. They saw that nakedness was the result of transgression.” —*Signs of the Times*, May 29, 1901.

- B. What will Christ do and how will He do it if we let Him daily, completely come into our lives? Ephesians 2:8; 2 Corinthians 5:17, 21; 3:18.**

“All who are found worthy to be counted as the members of the family of God in heaven, will recognize one another as sons and daughters of God. They will realize that they all receive their strength and pardon from the same source, even from Jesus Christ, who was crucified for their sins. They know that they are to wash their robes of character in His blood, to find acceptance with the Father in His name, if they would be in the bright assembly of the saints, clothed in the white robes of righteousness.” —*Selected Messages*, vol. 1, p. 259.

3. EDEN HOME—GLORIFICATION

- A. Man also received a wonderful home from the hand of his Creator (Genesis 2:8, 9; 1:31; 2:18). What was the direct result of his willful separation from God? Genesis 3:12, 23, 24.**
- B. What has God been preparing, and when will the redeemed receive it? Hebrews 11:10, 16; John 14:1-3; Revelation 21:1, 2.**

4. DOMINION—RESTORATION

- A. Man was entrusted with the stewardship over the earth (Genesis 1:26). Ever since Adam and Eve yielded to him, what did the tempter claim? Matthew 4:8, 9; 2 Corinthians 4:4.**
- B. Who is this world's real Owner, and what will He do very soon? Daniel 7:13, 14; Malachi 4:1, 2; Matthew 15:13; 25:21.**

“In assuming human nature, that He might reach to the very depths of human woe and misery and lift man up, Christ has shown what estimate He places upon the human race. In this work everything was at stake. Satan claimed to be the lawful owner of the fallen race; and with what persistent effort did he seek to overthrow Christ through his subtlety [subtlety, cunning]. It was only by the most desperate conflict with the powers of Satan that Christ could accomplish His purpose of restoring the almost obliterated image of God in man, and place His own signature upon his forehead. It was a desperate battle; for Satan had so long worked in league with human intelligencies as to almost completely intercept every ray of light shining from the throne of God upon the human mind. The cross of Calvary alone could destroy the works of the devil. In that wondrous sacrifice all eyes were called to behold the Lamb of God, which

taketh away the sin of the world. ‘The love of Christ kindles in the heart of all who continue to behold Him.’ –*General Conference Daily Bulletin*, March 2, 1897.

SUMMARY

- The plan of salvation can be outlined as follows:

Practically	Spiritually	Ceremonially
1. Life	Justification	Passover
2. Character	Sanctification	Pentecost
3. Home	Glorification	Day of Atonement
4. Dominion	Restoration	Feast of Tabernacles

- A. How and when will the above steps be completed? 1 Corinthians 15:23.
- B. Which step may we consider most important for us? How can this step be maintained? 1 Timothy 6:12; Romans 10:17.

“Faith is the only condition upon which justification can be obtained, and faith includes not only belief but trust.” –*Selected Messages*, vol. 1, p. 389.

“Faith in Christ is the only condition upon which justification can be received; and the gift is bestowed only upon those who realize that they are sinners, and undeserving of mercy.” –*The Youth’s Instructor*, March 1, 1900.

- C. What is to be the objective of our Christian life? How does that relate to God’s completing His objectives? Colossians 1:27-29.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS SUBJECT

- Bible references: Genesis 15:1-6; Jeremiah 23:5, 6; Habakkuk 2:4; Romans 1:16, 17; 3:20-25; 5:1; Revelation 3:8, 21; 22:3; Hebrews 6: 1; James 1:4; 3:2; 2 Timothy 3:16, 17; Matthew 5:48.
- Spirit of Prophecy references: *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 35, 208, 385, 664, 667; *Steps to Christ*, pp. 64-68; *The Great Controversy*, pp. 73-75, 124, 125; 140, 175, 253-256, 467-475; *Christ’s Object Lessons*, pp. 98, 117, 315, 330, 360, 390-392; *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, pp. 350, 426; vol. 8, p. 313; *The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 313, 333, 334, 483, 582; *Faith and Works*.

12

Sabbath, September 21, 2002

The Kingdom within You

MEMORY VERSE

“Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.” Luke 17:21.

THEME

- The parts of a kingdom (king, capital, subjects, territory).
- We are individually responsible for how we rule our own personal kingdom.
- What it means to be perfect in our sphere, as God is in His.

OVERVIEW

King	Your will
Capital	Your higher mind (Reason, intellect, memory, conscience)
Subjects	Your desires, appetites, passions, affections
Territory	Your body (The 5 senses are the gates into the kingdom)

“We have reason, conscience, memory, will, affections—all the attributes a human being can possess.”—*Selected Messages*, vol. 3, p. 130.

“We may be as perfect in our sphere as God is in His sphere.”—*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 455.

“The symmetrical structure of a strong, beautiful character is built up by individual acts of duty. And faithfulness should characterize our life in the least as well as in the greatest of its details. Integrity in little things, the performance of little acts of fidelity and little deeds of kindness, will gladden the path of life; and when our work on earth is ended, it will be found that every one of the little duties faithfully performed has exerted an influence for good—an influence that can never perish.”—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 574.

GOD'S KINGDOM

- 1. What four parts can we distinguish in God's kingdom? According to the Scriptures, to what is Jesus married?**

King	John 18:37	
Capital	Revelation 21:2	
Subjects	Ephesians 5:23	
Territory	Isaiah 62:4 ²	

YOUR PERSONAL KINGDOM

- 2. What part of man was intended to be the king/governor of his soul? 1 Kings 2:2; 18:21; Deuteronomy 30:19.**

“Pure religion has to do with the will. The will is the governing power in the nature of man, bringing all the other faculties under its sway. The will is not the taste or the inclination, but it is the deciding power which works in the children of men unto obedience to God or unto disobedience.”
—*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 513.

- 3. What has God given man to enable him to govern self? Isaiah 1:18; Romans 8:14.**

“With your Bibles open before you, consult sanctified reason and a good conscience. Your heart must be moved, your soul touched, your reason and intellect awakened, by the Spirit of God; and then holy principles revealed in the word of God will give light to the soul. The true source of wisdom and virtue and power is the cross of Calvary. Christ is the author and finisher of our faith. He says, ‘Without Me ye can do nothing.’” —*Review and Herald*, February 7, 1893.

² Hephzibah, *my delight* (is) *in her*, Beulah, *married*.

“He desires that all the inhabitants of the universe shall be convinced of His justice in the final overthrow of rebellion and the eradication of sin. He purposes that the real nature and direful effects of sin shall be clearly manifested to the end that all may be assured of the wisdom and justice of the divine government.” –*Bible Training School*, December 1, 1908.

4. **What is the capital city of self (the throne room of your kingdom, the storage chamber of your soul)? Lamentations 3:21; Acts 17:11; Romans 12:2.**

5. **Who are the subjects of your personal kingdom, and what happens when they have the control? Psalm 37:4; Ephesians 2:3.**

“The will, the appetites and passions, will clamor for indulgence, but God has implanted within you desires for high and holy purposes, and it is not necessary that these should be debased. This is only so when we refuse to submit to the control of reason and conscience. We are to restrain our passions and deny self.” –*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 19, p. 327.

6. **What is the territory of your kingdom? What are its gates? 1 Corinthians 15:38-40; Ecclesiastes 1:8; Proverbs 23:1, 2.**

“You will have to become a faithful sentinel over your eyes, ears, and all your senses if you would control your mind and prevent vain and corrupt thoughts from staining your soul. The power of grace alone can accomplish this most desirable work.” –*The Adventist Home*, p. 401.

“Those who would not fall a prey to Satan’s devices, must guard well the avenues of the soul; they must avoid reading, seeing, or hearing that which will suggest impure thoughts. The mind must not be left to dwell at random upon every subject that the enemy of souls may suggest. The heart must be faithfully sentineled, or evils without will awaken evils within, and the soul will wander in darkness.” –*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 518.

REFLECTING CHRIST

7. What has God given us to form characters for heaven and also to reflect His character here? Proverbs 16:32; John 17:17; 1 Peter 1:22.

“God takes men as they are, with the human elements in their character, and trains them for His service, if they will be disciplined and learn of Him. They are not chosen because they are perfect, but notwithstanding their imperfections, that through the knowledge and practice of the truth, through the grace of Christ, they may become transformed into His image.”—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 294.

“Home is made anything but happy if the evil weeds of dissension, selfishness, envy, passion, and sullen stubbornness are left to flourish in the neglected garden of the soul.”—*Christian Education*, p. 234.

SUMMARY

A kingdom	God's kingdom	Your kingdom	In time
1. King	Jesus	Your will	Justified NOW, by faith
2. Seat of government	New Jerusalem	Your higher mind	Sanctified by obedience
3. Subjects	The faithful—the church	Appetites, desires, and passions	Glorified at His coming
4. Territory	The new earth	Your body	Restored in new earth

“Our ministers should become intelligent on health reform.... When they take a right position on this subject, much will be gained. In their own lives and homes they should obey the laws of life, practicing right principles and living healthfully. Then they will be able to speak correctly on this subject, leading the people higher and still higher in the work of reform. Living in the light themselves, they can bear a message of great value to those who are in need of just such testimony.”—*Gospel Workers*, p. 231.

“If we injure unnecessarily our constitution, we dishonor God, for we transgress the laws of our being. We are under obligation to our neighbors to take a course before them which will give them correct views of the right way to pursue to insure health.” —*Review and Herald*, October 17, 1871.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS SUBJECT

- Bible references: Matthew 16:24; Luke 2:42; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 9:9, 14; 10:22; 13:18; John 8:9; Romans 2:15; 9:1; 13:5; Acts 23:1; 24:16; 1 Corinthians 10:31; 2 Corinthians 4:2; 8:7, 10, 12; 1 Timothy 1:5, 19; 3:9; 4:2; Titus 1:15; 1 Peter 3:16, 21; Exodus 15:26.
 - Spirit of Prophecy references: *Selected Messages*, vol. 1, p. 216; *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2, p. 535; vol. 3, p. 373; vol. 4, pp. 31, 501, 521, 626, 627; vol. 5, pp. 120, 223; vol. 7, p. 195; *Christ's Object Lessons*, pp. 114, 356; *Steps to Christ*, chapter 5, p. 62; *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 101, 203.
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Please read the Missionary Report from Suriname
on page 65

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Sabbath, September 28, 2002

The Individual's Path to the Throne of God

MEMORY VERSE

“He will beautify the meek with salvation.” Psalm 149:4.

THEME

“God is our strength. We must look to Him for wisdom and guidance, and keeping in view His glory, the good of the church, and the salvation of our own souls, we must overcome our besetting sins. We should individually seek to obtain new victory every day. We must learn to stand alone and depend wholly upon God. The sooner we learn this the better. Let each one find out where he fails, and then faithfully watch that his sins do not overcome him, but that he gets the victory over them. Then can we have confidence toward God, and great trouble will be saved the church.” –*Early Writings*, p. 105.

OVERVIEW

	Accepts Jesus as Saviour	Takes Jesus as King of all
Revelation of Christ		
Convicted of sin Repents Confesses Christ	“Silence in the soul”	Latter rain Sealed in the judgment Saints in heaven
	Dies to self	Cleansed by obedience
	Faith that works by love	

ABIDING IN HIM

- 1. To what has God called every human being? I Peter 1:13-15; Titus 2:11-14.**

2. **Who is Jesus (for me, for us, for the world)? Matthew 16: 13-16; Ephesians 4:21.**

3. **To what point will those who have truly accepted Him come? Job 42:6; Daniel 10:8.**

HE ABIDING IN US

4. **What will Christ do for those who come to Him? John 6:37; 1 John 1:9.**

“The present is a time of warfare and trial. Our Saviour says in Revelation 3:21: ‘To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with Me in My throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with My Father in His throne.’ The reward is not given to all who profess to be followers of Christ, but to those who overcome even as He overcame. We must study the life of Christ and learn what it is to confess Him before the world.

“In order to confess Christ, we must have Him to confess. No one can truly confess Christ unless the mind and spirit of Christ are in him.”
–*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, p. 303.

5. **What will a genuine follower of Christ be able to do, as He did? What will be inside him? Galatians 2:20; John 8:29.**

“Jesus emptied Himself, and in all that He did, self did not appear. He subordinated all things to the will of His Father...”

“...Human nature is ever struggling for expression, ready for contest; but he who learns of Christ is emptied of self, of pride, of love of supremacy, and there is silence in the soul. Self is yielded to the disposal of the Holy Spirit. Then we are not anxious to have the highest place. We have no ambition to crowd and elbow ourselves into notice; but we feel that our highest place is at the feet of our Saviour.” –*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, pp. 14, 15.

6. If we are resting in Christ and following Him by faith, how has He proposed to cleanse us so we can properly represent Him in the world? Psalm 119:11; 2 Corinthians 7:1; 1 John 3:3.

“The expulsion of sin is the act of the soul itself. True, we have no power to free ourselves from Satan’s control; but when we desire to be set free from sin, and in our great need cry out for a power out of and above ourselves, the powers of the soul are imbued with the divine energy of the Holy Spirit, and they obey the dictates of the will in fulfilling the will of God.

“The only condition upon which the freedom of man is possible is that of becoming one with Christ. ‘The truth shall make you free.’ John 8:32.”
—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 466.

SUMMARY

7. What will God accomplish in the tarrying time? Romans 2:4; 1 Peter 4:17.

“As Satan seeks to break down the barriers of the soul, by tempting us to indulge in sin, we must by living faith retain our connection with God, and have confidence in His strength to enable us to overcome every besetment. We are to flee from evil, and seek righteousness, meekness, and holiness.” —*Our High Calling*, p. 15.

“Our work is to place our will on the side of God’s will.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 741.

8. What experience are we to gain, and how will this come about? Genesis 32:26; Jeremiah 30:7.

“We can overcome. Yes; fully, entirely. Jesus died to make a way of escape for us, that we might overcome every evil temper, every sin, every temptation, and sit down at last with Him.

“It is our privilege to have faith and salvation. The power of God has not decreased. His power, I saw, would be just as freely bestowed now as formerly.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, p. 144.

“It is the purpose of God to glorify Himself in His people before the world.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 9, p. 21.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS SUBJECT

- Bible references: Matthew 23:23, 26; Ephesians 5:26; James 4:8; 1 Corinthians 5:7; 2 Timothy 2:21; Hebrews 9:14; Isaiah 1:16; 2 Kings 5:10-13; Job 25:4; Psalm 51:7; Numbers 19:18, 19; Hebrews 9:19; Ezekiel 36:25; 1 John 2:1-3; Colossians 3:2, 3.
 - Spirit of Prophecy references: *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2, p. 258; vol. 3, p. 524; vol. 4, pp. 354-357, 375, 386; vol. 5, pp. 159, 161, 231; vol. 6, p. 230; **vol. 9, p. 21**; *Education*, pp. 26, 27; *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 88, 116, 285, 480, 35, 352, 306, 307; *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, pp. 20, 72, 73; *Christ's Object Lessons*, pp. 49, 50, 61, 115-118, 266, 339, 384; *Steps to Christ*, p. 71; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 613.
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OVERVIEW OF GOD'S FIVE OBJECTIVES

OBJECTIVE 5: LAW

Revelation of Christ in the world | *God's throne and government unchallenged*

Saints number and sealed
Earth dies—fruit of sin
Thousand years

Peace in the universe
Earth cleansed
New Jerusalem

OBJECTIVE 4: EARTH



	Second coming	New Jerusalem
Earth enlightened:	1,000 years	God's throne set

Christ Our Righteousness Some accept / most reject	Sabbath rest Silence in the earth	Earth recreated Earth reclaimed
	Earth dies	Cleansed by fire

OBJECTIVE 3: SANCTUARY

	Priest	King
Christ's heavenly ministration	Silence in heaven	1,000 years end Books examined Saints in heaven
Receives sinners Purifies saints Seals faithful	Mercy ends	Comes in fire

OBJECTIVE 2: CHURCH

	 Early Rain	 Latter Rain
Receives Christ's righteousness	Resting in Christ	Reveals Christ
Revival of missionary spirit Repents Confesses Christ	Out of Babylon No earthly methods	Diversity of gifts Unity of purpose Christ centered
	Dead to the world	Cleansed by obedience
	Practices faith that works by love	

OBJECTIVE 1: MAN

	Accepts Jesus as Saviour	Takes Jesus as King of all
Revelation of Christ	"Silence in the soul"	Latter rain
Convicted of sin Repents Confesses Christ	Dies to self	Sealed in the judgment Saints in heaven
	Cleansed by obedience	
	Faith that works by love	

Missionary Report from Suriname

To be read on Sabbath, September 28, 2002

**The Special Sabbath School Offering
will be gathered Sabbath, October 5, 2002**

“Goyetherefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.” Matthew 28:19, 20.

According to the commission the Lord gave to each one of His followers and trusting in His promise that He will be with us till the end of the world, the work of the Reform Movement began officially in Suriname in the year 2000. Not too many people know about this small country located between Guyana and French Guiana on the northern coast of South America. Although it has a population of only about 800,000 people, there is a wide mixture of nationalities, cultures, and languages. The official language is Dutch; but at least four dialects are spoken, in addition to one language from each of the dominant cultures living in Suriname (Indian, Arab, Javanese, Chinese, etc.). There are three main cities, and the rest of the country is dotted with many jungle villages.

The message of Reformation first reached this country through Sister Johana M. Vlijter and Brother Ernest Huur. Sister Vlijter became acquainted with the message of Reformation while in Holland, and then she decided to come and share the Good News in her homeland. She has now been living in Suriname for eight years, working with children and sharing the message with everyone she meets.

Br. Huur works as a teacher in Holland, but he takes every opportunity to travel back to Suriname and work among his relatives and friends. The need was seen for a person to stay and work permanently in the country. In December 1998, Br. Neftaly Acevedo, from Venezuela, visited Suriname with Brother Huur, but he was unable to stay longer than about a month. Then Brother Gabriel Porras, from Colombia, who had just completed two years of study at Bethel Theological Institute in Albertirsa, Hungary, was asked to join the newly established Foreign Missions Program and serve in Suriname. He arrived in August 1999 and was joined shortly afterward by Brother Roderick Stubbs from Jamaica.

After making some interesting experiences, this team started to become familiar with the capital city of Paramaribo, as well as with the different customs and people. They canvassed for two months with great success, despite little knowledge of the language. The canvassing work aroused the interest of many people to receive Bible studies. Brother Huur paid another visit in December 1999 and initiated steps for registering the church—"Stichting Internationale Zending Van Sevende Dags Adventisten Reformatiebeweging Surinaamse Veld." At the same time, the brethren visited a Pentecostal group which was located in the jungle, the members of which expressed an interest in learning more about the Bible. After Brother Stubbs had to leave for personal reasons, Brother Oscar Oviedo, also from Colombia and a graduate of Bethel Theological Institute, was sent to Suriname to cooperate with Brother Porras.

To reach more people and especially the youth, a series of Bible studies by computer was organized, through which some young people came to know the Lord Jesus as their personal Saviour. The number of interested people increased, including some Spanish-speaking people who received Bible studies.

Brother Reinaldo Porras visited Suriname in October 2000 to evaluate the work that had been completed and to baptize two young souls, the daughters of Sister Vlijter.

Since then, the Lord has blessed His work very much. A nice house has been rented for meetings and for the missionary team to live in. There are more people who wish to be baptized. Now the greatest need is for a married couple to come and work; that need, along with many others, has been placed in the hands of "the Lord of the harvest," and we are sure He "will send forth laborers."

The Lord has done great things, and He will do more as we trust in Him and do His will. Thank you for your prayers and support. May the Lord bless all of us to continue with the commission He has given us, to be the light of the world, and to be a living reflection of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour. All praise to Him forever and ever.

One great need in Suriname is to purchase land and construct a small chapel. Your freewill contributions will be used to help establish such a house of worship. The Lord bless your generosity. Please remember to pray that more laborers will be willing to go into the great harvest field of the world. Jesus is coming soon. He asks us to dedicate to Him everything that He has given us. Constantly keeping a higher purpose in mind will keep us from focusing on the things of earth and will help us accomplish the greater good for mankind.

-Larry Watts, Foreign Missions Program Director