

SABBATH SCHOOL LESSONS

Lessons on THE WORLD'S SABBATH TEST

I
Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

II
Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is above, or that is in the water, under

IV
Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work; but the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maid-servant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

V
Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

VI
Thou shalt not kill.

VII
Thou shalt not commit adultery.
VIII
Thou shalt not steal.
IX
Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

X
Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maid-servant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.

First Half 2024

***LESSONS ON
THE WORLD'S
SABBATH TEST***

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

❖ SECTION 1 – THE TIME OF SABBATH RESTORATION

1. CHRIST'S INTERCESSORY WORK.....	1
2. IN THE FIRST APARTMENT	6
3. IN THE SECOND APARTMENT.....	12
4. EIGHTEEN CENTURIES OF PRIESTLY MINISTRATION	18
5. THE RESTITUTION OF ALL THINGS.....	22
6. RESTORERS OF PATHS.....	26
7. COMMENCEMENT OF THE SABBATH TEST.....	31
8. TEST OF LOYALTY.....	36
9. THE SEAL OF GOD	41
10. SEALING TIME OF THE 144,000	47
11. LEAD-UP TO THE FINAL TEST.....	52
12. A LIFE AND DEATH QUESTION	57
13. THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT	62

❖ SECTION 2 – TEST OF TRUE SABBATH KEEPING

1. JESUS, LORD OF THE SABBATH.....	73
2. JESUS, LORD OF OUR LIFE	79
3. TO WELCOME EACH SABBATH.....	83
4. SABBATH PREPARATION.....	87
5. THOUGHTS, WORDS, AND ACTIONS.....	92
6. NOT FORSAKING THE ASSEMBLING	97
7. DRESSED TO MEET OUR KING	102
8. REVERENCE IN HIS PRESENCE.....	106
9. OUR CHILDREN ON THE SABBATH	111
10. DESIGNED FOR WORSHIP.....	117

11. SEEING, YET OBSERVING NOT	122
12. BURDEN FREE.....	127
13. FORETASTE OF HEAVEN	132

SECTION 1

**THE TIME
OF SABBATH
RESTORATION**

Introduction

IN THE STUDY OF GOD'S WORD we become aware of God's patience with humanity as we come out of ignorance into His wonderful truth. The words of Jesus bear witness to this in John 16:12: "I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now." The Apostle Paul also addresses this in the words of Acts 17:30: "And the times of this ignorance God winked at". Indeed, God patiently waits for us to become enlightened. However, by His Holy Spirit, God works to bring us out of our ignorance, as Jesus said: "When He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth." (John 16:13). When this takes place, then the remaining words of Acts 17:30 apply: "But now commandeth all men every where to repent."

As we come to the time of the end, humanity is brought to testing times to determine whether they will submit to the "restitution of all things" cited in Acts 3:21. Among these things is the restoration of the seventh-day Sabbath, which God, in Isaiah 58:13, calls "my holy day".

In this lesson we are studying closely the time when the Sabbath test comes for the people of God by which they will be sealed to constitute the 144,000 and stand in resistance to the mark of the beast which is being enforced during the time of the end. There are many who fail to see that the messages of the three angels of Revelation 14 and of the other angel of Revelation 18 constitute the testing of the Sabbath for all humanity. So this section of the lesson will clarify what is meant in the following quote:

"Thus the substance of the second angel's message is again given to the world by that other angel who lightens the earth with his glory. These messages all blend in one, to come before the people in the closing days of this earth's history. All the world will be tested, and all that have been in the darkness of error in regard to the Sabbath of the fourth commandment will understand the last message of mercy that is to be given to men." —*Selected Messages Book 2*, p. 116.

May God grant us understanding to be used in His hands to communicate this testing truth to the people of God in Babylon.

Christ's Intercessory Work

For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us. Hebrews 9:24

OBJECTIVES

- To let the Scriptures verify Christ's ongoing work after the cross.
- To examine the nature of His work.
- To appreciate the benefits of Christ's work for us.

AFTER THE CROSS

1. What did Jesus do after He shed His blood at the cross?

Heb. 9:11-12

“As Jesus died on Calvary, He cried, "It is finished," and the veil of the temple was rent in twain, from the top to the bottom. This was to show that the services of the earthly sanctuary were forever finished, and that God would no more meet with the priests in their earthly temple, to accept their sacrifices. The blood of Jesus was then shed, which was to be offered by Himself in the heavenly sanctuary.” —*Early Writings*, p. 253.

“Jesus is officiating in the presence of God, offering up His shed blood, as it had been a lamb slain. Jesus presents the oblation offered for every offense and every shortcoming of the sinner.” —*Selected Messages Book 1*, p. 343.

2. How clearly does the Bible express that Jesus continued the work of our salvation upon His return to heaven? Heb. 9:24; John 14:1-3

“The intercession of Christ in man’s behalf in the sanctuary above is as essential to the plan of salvation as was His death upon the cross. By His death He began that work which after His resurrection He ascended to complete in heaven. We must by faith enter within the veil, "whither the forerunner is for us entered." Hebrews 6:20. There the light from the cross of Calvary is reflected. There we may gain a clearer insight into the mysteries of redemption. The salvation of man is accomplished at an infinite expense to heaven; the sacrifice made is equal to the broadest demands of the broken law of God. Jesus has opened the way to the Father’s throne, and through His mediation the sincere desire of all who come to Him in faith may be presented before God.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 489.

APPLICATION OF THE CROSS

3. Does the Bible reveal the nature of Christ’s work on earth as the sacrifice for sin during His life and death on the cross? 2 Cor. 5:21; Rom. 8:3, 4; Heb. 5:7-10

“Christ was crucified for fallen man. But to many who call themselves Christians this event is nothing. In practise they deny the cross of Christ. . . . They admit that Christ died on the cross, but because there is a crucifixion for them to experience, they will not receive the lessons that lead to self-denial and self-sacrifice. They are Christians in name only. The central point of their faith is not a crucified and risen Saviour, who brings to all that

receive Him the privilege of being sons and daughters of God.” —*Sons and Daughters of God*, p. 246.

4. In reflecting upon Christ’s work on earth, are we able to discern His work in heaven? Heb. 9:11-15 i.e. 7:24, 25

“The ministration of the priest throughout the year in the first apartment of the sanctuary, "within the veil" which formed the door and separated the holy place from the outer court, represents the work of ministration upon which Christ entered at His ascension. It was the work of the priest in the daily ministration to present before God the blood of the sin offering, also the incense which ascended with the prayers of Israel. So did Christ plead His blood before the Father in behalf of sinners, and present before Him also, with the precious fragrance of His own righteousness, the prayers of penitent believers. Such was the work of ministration in the first apartment of the sanctuary in heaven.

“Thither the faith of Christ’s disciples followed Him as He ascended from their sight. Here their hopes centered, "which hope we have," said Paul, "as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest forever." "Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by His own blood He entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us." Hebrews 6:19, 20; 9:12.” —*The Great Controversy*, pp. 420, 421.

5. What in essence is the work transpiring in heaven as the blood of Jesus is being applied? Rev. 12:10, 11; Heb. 8:6, 10

“Thus Christ, in His own spotless righteousness, after shedding His precious blood, enters into the holy place to cleanse the sanctuary. And there the crimson current is brought into the service of reconciling God to man. Some may look upon this slaying of the heifer as a meaningless ceremony, but it was done by the command of God and bears a deep significance that has not lost its application to the present time. . . .

“The blood of Christ is efficacious, but it needs to be applied continually.”
—*The Faith I Live By*, p. 200.

APPRECIATING THE BENEFITS

6. Are we admonished to do something to benefit from the work Jesus does in His intercession in heaven? Heb. 11:19-22

“Unless we enter the sanctuary above, and unite with Christ in working out our own salvation with fear and trembling, we shall be weighed in the balances of the sanctuary, and shall be pronounced wanting.” —*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 7*, p. 933.

7. Considering the admonishing given in question 6, are we receiving a powerful benefit from the work of Jesus in heaven as we enter into diligent effort for our own salvation? Phil. 2:12-15

“Circumstances cannot work reforms. Christianity proposes a reformation in the heart. What Christ works within, will be worked out under the dictation of a converted intellect. The plan of beginning outside and trying to work inward has always failed, and always will fail. God’s plan with you is to begin at the very seat of all difficulties, the heart, and then from

out of the heart will issue the principles of righteousness; the reformation will be outward as well as inward.” —*Counsels on Diet and Foods*, p. 35.

8. Can we see that the work Jesus is doing in heaven is inseparable from the work simultaneously done in our hearts? Eph. 2:4-6, 10

“Christ is in the heavenly sanctuary, and he is there to make an atonement for the people. He is there to present his wounded side and pierced hands to his Father. He is there to plead for his Church that is upon the earth. He is cleansing the sanctuary from the sins of the people. What is our work?—It is our work to be in harmony with the work of Christ. By faith we are to work with him, to be in union with him.” —*The Review and Herald*, Jan. 28, 1890.

In The First Apartment

And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. Revelation 1:13

OBJECTIVES

- To gain clear Biblical evidence of a two-apartment sanctuary in heaven.
- To see Jesus in the first apartment ministering there.
- To find further evidence of Christ's work in that place.

SANCTUARY IN HEAVEN

1. Does the apostle Paul connect the Hebrew sanctuary with the sanctuary in heaven? Heb. 8:1-5; 9:11

“Here is revealed the sanctuary of the new covenant. The sanctuary of the first covenant was pitched by man, built by Moses; this is pitched by the Lord, not by man. In that sanctuary the earthly priests performed their service; in this, Christ, our great High Priest, ministers at God's right hand. One sanctuary was on earth, the other is in heaven.

“Further, the tabernacle built by Moses was made after a pattern. The Lord directed him: "According to all that I show thee, after the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make it." And again the charge was given, "Look that thou make them after

their pattern, which was showed thee in the mount." Exodus 25:9, 40. And Paul says that the first tabernacle "was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices;" that its holy places were "patterns of things in the heavens;" that the priests who offered gifts according to the law served "unto the example and shadow of heavenly things," and that "Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us." Hebrews 9:9, 23; 8:5; 9:24."
—*The Great Controversy*, p. 413.

2. Did Apostle John see in heaven a sanctuary where Jesus was ministering? Rev. 1:12-13; 11:19

“The sanctuary in heaven, in which Jesus ministers in our behalf, is the great original, of which the sanctuary built by Moses was a copy.”

“The holy places of the sanctuary in heaven are represented by the two apartments in the sanctuary on earth. As in vision the apostle John was granted a view of the temple of God in heaven, he beheld there "seven lamps of fire burning before the throne." Revelation 4:5. He saw an angel "having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne." Revelation 8:3. Here the prophet was permitted to behold the first apartment of the sanctuary in heaven; and he saw there the "seven lamps of fire" and "the golden altar," represented by the golden candlestick and the altar of incense in the sanctuary on earth. Again, "the temple of God was opened" (Revelation 11:19), and he looked within the inner veil, upon the holy of holies. Here he beheld "the ark of His testament," represented by the sacred chest constructed by Moses to contain the law of God.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 414.

FIRST-APARTMENT MANIFESTATION

- 3. How precisely does Apostle Paul express the fact that Jesus verily entered another phase of His work by entering into the precinct of the heavenly sanctuary? Heb. 6:19, 20; 8:2; 9:24**

“The Son of God . . . has fulfilled His pledge, and has passed into the heavens, to take upon Himself the government of the heavenly host. He fulfilled one phase of His priesthood by dying on the cross for the fallen race. He is now fulfilling another phase by pleading before the Father the case of the repenting, believing sinner, presenting to God the offerings of His people.” —*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 7, p. 929.*

- 4. As in the first apartment of the Hebrew sanctuary we see the candlesticks, the table of shewbread, and the altar of incense, can we see Jesus tending to these instruments or furniture in heaven? Rev. 1:12, 13; 4:5; 8:3, 4; John 6:48**

“I was also shown a sanctuary upon the earth containing two apartments. It resembled the one in heaven, and I was told that it was a figure of the heavenly. The furniture of the first apartment of the earthly sanctuary was like that in the first apartment of the heavenly.” —*Early Writings, p. 252.*

FIRST-APARTMENT MINISTRATION

- 5. After Christ’s sacrifice on earth, what was He doing with the seven candlesticks in the heavenly sanctuary? Rev. 1:13, 16-18, 20 compare John 14:16, 17, 26; Acts 1:4, 5**

“Christ’s ascension to heaven was the signal that His followers were to receive the promised blessing. For this they were to wait before they entered upon their work. When Christ passed within the heavenly gates, He was enthroned amidst the adoration of the angels. As soon as this ceremony was completed, the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples in rich currents, and Christ was indeed glorified, even with the glory which He had with the Father from all eternity. The Pentecostal outpouring was Heaven’s communication that the Redeemer’s inauguration was accomplished. According to His promise He had sent the Holy Spirit from heaven to His followers as a token that He had, as priest and king, received all authority in heaven and on earth, and was the Anointed One over His people.” —*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 38.

6. Having seen that the candlesticks represent His church to which He sends the Holy Spirit in the candlesticks, is there a correlation of Christ’s work in heaven with the work of the Holy Spirit on earth? 1 Cor. 6:19; Rom. 8:26, 27; Heb. 7:15, 17

“Christ Jesus is represented as continually standing at the altar, momentarily offering up the sacrifice for the sins of the world. He is a minister of the true tabernacle which the Lord pitched and not man. . . . A daily and yearly typical atonement is no longer to be made, but the atoning sacrifice through a mediator is essential because of the constant commission of sin. Jesus is officiating in the presence of God, offering up His shed blood, as it had been a lamb slain. . . .

“Christ, our Mediator, and the Holy Spirit are constantly interceding in man’s behalf, but the Spirit pleads not for us as does Christ who presents His blood, shed from the foundation of the world; the Spirit works upon our

hearts, drawing out prayers and penitence, praise and thanksgiving.”

—*That I May Know Him*, p. 75.

7. Besides Christ’s tending to the candlesticks, where else in the first apartment can He be seen officiating? Rev. 8:3, 4

“Jesus knows the circumstances of every soul. You may say, I am sinful, very sinful. You may be; but the worse you are, the more you need Jesus. He turns no weeping, contrite one away. He does not tell to any all that He might reveal, but He bids every trembling soul take courage. Freely will He pardon all who come to Him for forgiveness and restoration. . . . He is today standing at the altar of incense, presenting before God the prayers of those who desire His help.” —*Conflict and Courage*, p. 309.

“By faith, in His humanity Christ saw what we are permitted to see by faith—the atoning sacrifice connected with the Lord upon the mercy seat. The golden censer is waved, and the incense, the representation of the purity and righteousness of Christ, ascends, bearing the prayers of every soul that receives and believes on Christ to the altar which is before the throne of God. And Jesus is in the midst.” —*Manuscript Releases Vol. 12*, p. 415.

8. Was there yet another piece of furniture in the first apartment by which His people were to benefit? Num. 4:7; Ex. 25:23, 24, 30. What did this bread upon a crown-embroided table represent? John 6:50, 51

“The showbread was kept ever before the Lord as a perpetual offering. . . . It was called showbread, or “bread of the presence,” because it was ever before the face of the Lord. It was an acknowledgment of man’s

dependence upon God for both temporal and spiritual food, and that it is received only through the mediation of Christ. . . . Both the manna and the showbread pointed to Christ, the living bread, who is ever in the presence of God for us.” —*The Faith I Live By*, p. 197.

In The Second Apartment

And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened. Revelation 15:5

OBJECTIVES

- To reveal clearly that the location of the ark of the testimony is in a separate chamber in heaven.
- To find Jesus opening into that location.
- To understand and cooperate with Jesus in His ministry there.

CHAMBER OF THE TESTIMONY

- 1. Did John the Revelator see a separate apartment in heaven where the ark of the testimony is located? Ex. 25:16; Heb. 9:3, 4; Rev. 15:5**

“In holy vision John was taken into the heavenly sanctuary. He says: “The temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament.” “And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened.” The sanctuary that Moses was commanded to make was to be after the pattern of the heavenly sanctuary. In the ark were placed the ten commandments which had been written by the finger of God. The law that was placed in the ark on earth was a copy of the law that is contained in the ark of the testament in heaven, and the precepts of Jehovah are immutable. The ten commandments constitute the moral standard of character. God requires on the part of man

perfect conformity to his law, and a curse is pronounced against everyone who continues not in all things written in the law to do them.” —*The Signs of the Times*, June 11, 1894.

2. Does Inspiration enlighten us as to the term given to the Ten Commandments as “testimony”? Ps. 132:12; Ex. 31:18

“In the earthly ark Moses was required to place the tables of stone. These were called the tables of the testimony; and the ark was called the ark of the testimony, because they contained God’s testimony in the Ten Commandments.” —*The Story of Redemption*, p. 154.

CHRIST’S OPENING ANOUNCEMENT

3. When Jesus addresses the church of endtimes, namely the period of Philadelphia and Laodicea, what does He refer to regarding His work in heaven? Rev. 3:7 i.e. Isa. 22:20-22

“Here an open as well as a shut door is brought to view. At the termination of the 2300 prophetic days in 1844, Christ changed his ministration from the holy to the most holy place. When, in the ministration of the earthly sanctuary, the high priest on the day of atonement entered the most holy place, the door of the holy place was closed, and the door of the most holy was opened. So, when Christ passed from the holy to the most holy of the heavenly sanctuary, the door, or ministration, of the former apartment was closed, and the door, or ministration, of the latter was opened. Christ had ended one part of his work as our intercessor, to enter upon another portion of the work; and he still presented his blood before the Father in behalf of

sinners. “Behold,” he declares, “I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it.”” —*The Spirit of Prophecy Vol. 4*, p. 268.

4. Where else does Scripture identify Christ’s change of location in His ministry in heaven? Dan. 7:9, 10, 13, 14

“Thus was presented to the prophet’s vision the opening of the investigative Judgment. The coming of Christ here described is not his second coming to the earth. He comes to the Ancient of days in Heaven to receive dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, which will be given him at the close of his mediatorial work. It is this coming, and not his second advent to the earth, that was foretold in prophecy to take place at the termination of the 2300 days, in 1844. Attended by a cloud of heavenly angels, our great High Priest enters the holy of holies, and there appears in the presence of God to engage in the last acts of his ministration in behalf of man,—to perform the work of investigative Judgment, and to make an atonement for all who are shown to be entitled to its benefits.” —*The Spirit of Prophecy Vol. 4*, p. 307.

SECOND-APARTMENT MINISTRY

5. As the books are opened in heaven, does the Bible in the New Testament reveal anything regarding the judgement applicable to the children of God, gospel Christians? 1 Pet. 4:17, 18; 1 Tim. 5:24, 25

“Some men’s sins are open beforehand, confessed in penitence, and forsaken, and they go beforehand to judgment. Pardon is written over

against the names of these men. But other men's sins follow after, and are not put away by repentance and confession, and these sins will stand registered against them in the books of heaven." —*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 7*, p. 916.

"The work of the investigative judgment and the blotting out of sins is to be accomplished before the second advent of the Lord. Since the dead are to be judged out of the things written in the books, it is impossible that the sins of men should be blotted out until after the judgment at which their cases are to be investigated. . . . When the investigative judgment closes, Christ will come, and His reward will be with Him to give to every man as his work shall be." —*Maranatha*, p. 251.

6. If judgement begins at the house of God, how does Inspiration describe this event? 2 Cor. 5:10

"As the books of record are opened in the judgment, the lives of all who have believed on Jesus come in review before God. Beginning with those who first lived upon the earth, our Advocate presents the cases of each successive generation, and closes with the living. Every name is mentioned, every case closely investigated. Names are accepted, names rejected. When any have sins remaining upon the books of record, unrepented of and unforgiven, their names will be blotted out of the book of life, and the record of their good deeds will be erased from the book of God's remembrance. The Lord declared to Moses: "Whosoever hath sinned against Me, him will I blot out of My book." Exodus 32:33. And says the prophet Ezekiel: "When the righteous turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, . . . all his righteousness that he hath done shall not be mentioned." Ezekiel 18:24.

"All who have truly repented of sin, and by faith claimed the blood of Christ as their atoning sacrifice, have had pardon entered against their names in the books of heaven; as they have become partakers of the righteousness of Christ, and their characters are found to be in harmony

with the law of God, their sins will be blotted out, and they themselves will be accounted worthy of eternal life.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 483.

7. With such serious matters in consideration, does God leave us to our own resources? 1 John 2:1, 2

“The books of heaven record the sins that would have been committed had there been opportunity. God will bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing. By His law He measures the character of every man. As the artist transfers to the canvas the features of the face, so the features of each individual character are transferred to the books of heaven. God has a perfect photograph of every man’s character, and this photograph He compares with His law. He reveals to man the defects that mar his life, and calls upon him to repent and turn from sin.” —*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 5*, p. 1085.

8. How earnestly is Jesus our High Priest occupied in His work of intercession in the second apartment? 2 Pet. 3:8, 9

“I saw four angels who had a work to do on the earth, and were on their way to accomplish it. Jesus was clothed with priestly garments. He gazed in pity on the remnant, then raised His hands, and with a voice of deep pity cried, “*My blood, Father, My blood, My blood, My blood!*” Then I saw an exceeding bright light come from God, who sat upon the great white throne, and was shed all about Jesus. Then I saw an angel with a commission from Jesus, swiftly flying to the four angels who had a work to do on the earth, and waving something up and down in his hand, and

crying with a loud voice, "*Hold! Hold! Hold! Hold!* until the servants of God are sealed in their foreheads.'" —*Early Writings*, p. 38.

Eighteen Centuries of Priestly Ministration

But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. Hebrews 7:24

OBJECTIVES

- To reflect further upon the priestly work of Jesus.
- To appreciate Christ's work in its lead-up to judgement day.
- To understand God's long patience with professed Christendom.

JESUS OUR PRIEST

- 1. As we reflect upon Christ's intercessory work, what are the characteristics of His nature by which the sinner would find help? Heb. 2:17-18; 4:14-15**

“For our sake Jesus emptied Himself of His glory; He clothed His divinity with humanity that He might touch humanity, that His personal presence might be among us, that we might know that He was acquainted with all our trials, and sympathized with our grief, that every son and daughter of Adam might understand that Jesus is the friend of sinners.” —*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 7, p. 927.*

- 2. Are there other attributes of Christ which make Him a very effective intercessor? Heb. 7:22-25**

“Christ is watching. He knows all about our burdens, our dangers, and our difficulties; and He fills His mouth with arguments in our behalf. He fits His intercessions to the needs of each soul, as He did in the case of Peter. . . . Our Advocate fills His mouth with arguments to teach His tried, tempted ones to brace against Satan’s temptations. He interprets every movement of the enemy. He orders events (Letter 90, 1906).” —*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 7, p. 931.*

3. What were Christians all through the centuries admonished to do in the light of Christ’s eternal priesthood? Heb. 4:16; 10:19-23

““We have a great high priest, which is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God. . . . We have not an high priest which can not be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.” We may take courage, and believe that we shall overcome every imperfection of character. Our Redeemer has taken our nature, fought our battles, and in his name we shall conquer. Human nature may take hold of the strength of God, and be victorious.” —*The Youth’s Instructor, Dec. 28, 1899.*

APPRECIATING CHRIST’S WORK

4. Does the Bible enunciate the work of Jesus for the benefit of believers who have sinned or who are endeavouring to cease from sinning? Matt. 1:21; 2 Cor. 5:21

“What is Christ doing in heaven? He is interceding for us. By His work the threshold of heaven is flushed with the glory of God which will shine upon every soul who will open the windows of the soul heavenward. As the prayers of the sincere and contrite ones ascend to heaven Christ says to the Father, "I will take their sins. Let them stand before you innocent." As He takes their sins from them, He fills their hearts with the glorious light of truth and love.” —*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 7, p. 930.*

5. As our High Priest, how far-reaching does Scripture describe Christ’s work in the heavenly sanctuary to be? Rom. 5:9, 10; Heb. 7:24, 25

“Christ is able to save to the uttermost all who come to Him in faith. He will cleanse them from all defilement if they will let Him. But if they cling to their sins, they cannot possibly be saved; for Christ’s righteousness covers no sin unrepented of. God has declared that those who receive Christ as their Redeemer, accepting Him as the One who takes away all sin, will receive pardon for their transgressions. These are the terms of our election. Man’s salvation depends upon his receiving Christ by faith. Those who will not receive Him lose eternal life because they refused to avail themselves of the only means provided by the Father and the Son for the salvation of a perishing world.” —*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 7, p. 931.*

6. To save believers to the uttermost, what else was necessary to be achieved by the work of the High Priest? Dan. 7:9, 10; Micah 7:18, 19

“For eighteen centuries this work of ministration continued in the first apartment of the sanctuary. The blood of Christ, pleaded in behalf of

penitent believers, secured their pardon and acceptance with the Father, yet their sins still remained upon the books of record. As in the typical service there was a work of atonement at the close of the year, so before Christ's work for the redemption of men is completed there is a work of atonement for the removal of sin from the sanctuary. This is the service which began when the 2300 days ended. At that time, as foretold by Daniel the prophet, our High Priest entered the most holy, to perform the last division of His solemn work--to cleanse the sanctuary." —*The Great Controversy*, p. 421.

GOD'S PATIENT DEALINGS

7. Why did Jesus spend eighteen centuries in the first apartment of the heavenly sanctuary? 2 Thess. 2:1-3, 7, 8; 2 Peter 3:8, 9

8. Is it revealed in Scripture that God gave time for the apostasy in the church to be repented of before the judgement would reveal the point of no return? Rev. 2:20-22; 17:1; 19:1, 2

“In the great day of final atonement and investigative judgment, the only cases considered are those of the professed people of God. The judgment of the wicked is a distinct and separate work, and takes place at a later period. . . . The books of record in heaven, in which the names and the deeds of men are registered, are to determine the decisions of the judgment.” —*The Faith I Live By*, p. 210.

The Restitution of All Things

... Jesus Christ, ... whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began. Acts 3:20, 21

OBJECTIVES

- To examine Christ's final work in the heavenly sanctuary.
- To consider the effect on God's people during Christ's final work.
- To understand the work of God's church during that final work.

CHRIST'S SECOND-APARTMENT WORK

- 1. Having already examined some of Christ's work in the second apartment, what must be completed there before He can come again? Acts 3:21; Luke 24:44**

“Christ was to complete His work, and fulfill His pledge to “make a man more precious than fine gold; even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir.” Isaiah 13:12. All power in heaven and on earth was given to the Prince of Life, and He returned to His followers in a world of sin, that He might impart to them of His power and glory.” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 790.

“The intercession of Christ in man's behalf in the sanctuary above is as essential to the plan of salvation as was His death upon the cross. By His death He began that work which after His resurrection He ascended to complete in heaven.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 489.

2. In which other words is the work of Jesus described which He must complete before He comes to earth again? Heb. 9:10; Jude 24

“Paul wrote to these brethren as "saints in Christ Jesus;" but he was not writing to those who were perfect in character. He wrote to them as men and women who were striving against temptation and who were in danger of falling. He pointed them to "the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that Great Shepherd of the sheep." He assured them that "through the blood of the everlasting covenant" He will "make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ." Hebrews 13:20, 21.”

—*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 167.

3. In the light of questions one and two, when will Christ be able to come from His heavenly work? Heb. 9:28

““When the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come." Christ is waiting with longing desire for the manifestation of Himself in His church. When the character of Christ shall be perfectly reproduced in His people, then He will come to claim them as His own.” —*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 69.

EFFECT OF CHRIST'S INTERCESSION

4. By what other words is Christ's work in the second apartment of the sanctuary described? Dan. 8:14; Lev. 16:17, 18, 19

“As in the typical service there was a work of atonement at the close of the year, so before Christ’s work for the redemption of men is completed there is a work of atonement for the removal of sin from the sanctuary. This is the service which began when the 2300 days ended. At that time, as foretold by Daniel the prophet, our High Priest entered the most holy, to perform the last division of His solemn work--to cleanse the sanctuary”
—*The Great Controversy*, p. 421.

5. How was this cleansing work in the heavenly sanctuary to affect believers on earth living during this time? Lev. 16:30; Ezek. 36:25-27

“When Jesus is within the sanctuary above, when we have an Advocate in the courts of heaven, how earnestly should the corresponding work of intercession be going on upon the earth! While we may see and should sense the guilt of sin, we are to appreciate the mercy of God through the atonement. The Lord has promised that because of the propitiatory sacrifice He will, if we repent, certainly forgive our iniquities. Now, while Christ is pleading in our behalf, while the Father accepts the merits of the atoning Sacrifice, let us ask and we shall receive. Let all confess their sins and let them go beforehand to judgment that they may be forgiven for Christ’s sake, and that pardon may be written against their names.”
—*Manuscript Releases Vol. 3*, p. 197.

CORRESPONDING WORK ON EARTH

6. While Jesus is doing His work in heaven, is there a corresponding work for us to do on earth? Phil. 2:12, 13; 2 Pet. 1:10, 11

“There must be a purifying of the soul here upon the earth, in harmony with Christ’s cleansing of the sanctuary in heaven.

“God’s people are now to have their eyes fixed on the heavenly sanctuary, where . . . our great High Priest . . . is interceding for His people.”

—*Maranatha*, p. 249.

7. In Christ’s work to bring about the restitution of all things, does the Bible declare this to be in reference to the full restoration of perfection in God’s people? Eph. 5:26, 27; Jude 24

“God had committed to His people a work to be accomplished on earth. The third angel’s message was to be given, the minds of believers were to be directed to the heavenly sanctuary, where Christ had entered to make atonement for His people. The Sabbath reform was to be carried forward. The breach in the law of God must be made up. The message must be proclaimed with a loud voice, that all the inhabitants of earth might receive the warning. The people of God must purify their souls through obedience to the truth, and be prepared to stand without fault before Him at His coming.” —*Selected Messages Book 1*, p. 67.

Restorers of Paths

...and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in. Isaiah 58:12

OBJECTIVES

- To dwell on the restorative work of Christ upon the believer.
- To show the effect of restoration in the believer on society.
- To let Scripture declare the work of restored believers.

RESTORING THE BELIEVER

- 1. For what reason did Jesus come from heaven to earth as a human being? Matt. 1:21; Rom. 8:3, 4**

“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.” —*Faith and Works*, p. 95.

- 2. How complete is the work of Christ in the life of the believer declared to be? Eph. 4:11-13; Jude 24**

“Sin has marred the divine image in man. Through Christ this may be restored, but it is only through earnest prayer and the conquest of self that we can become partakers of the divine nature.” —*Gospel Workers*, p. 80.

IMPACT ON SOCIETY

3. When Jesus has restored souls by His saving influence, what in turn do they become? Isa. 64:1-4

4. How did Jesus express this to His disciples? Matt. 5:13-16

“We need to be converted from our faulty lives to the faith of the Gospel. Christ’s followers have no need to try to shine. If they will behold constantly the life of Christ they will be changed in mind and heart into the same image. Then they will shine without any superficial attempt. The Lord asks for no display of goodness. In the gift of His Son He has made provision that our inward lives may be imbued with the principles of heaven. It is the appropriation of this provision that will lead to a manifestation of Christ to the world. When the people of God experience the new birth, their honesty, their uprightness, their fidelity, their steadfast principles, will unfailingly reveal it.” —*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 251.

VOCATION OF THE REDEEMED

5. How does the Bible express the call to shine? Isa. 60:1-3

“The children of God are called to be representatives of Christ, showing forth the goodness and mercy of the Lord. As Jesus has revealed to us the true character of the Father, so we are to reveal Christ to a world that does not know His tender, pitying love. "As Thou hast sent Me into the world," said Jesus, "even so have I also sent them into the world." "I in them, and Thou in Me; . . . that the world may know that Thou hast sent Me." John 17:18, 23. The apostle Paul says to the disciples of Jesus, "Ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ," "known and read of all men." 2 Corinthians 3:3, 2. In every one of His children, Jesus sends a letter to the world. If you are Christ's follower, He sends in you a letter to the family, the village, the street, where you live. Jesus, dwelling in you, desires to speak to the hearts of those who are not acquainted with Him. Perhaps they do not read the Bible, or do not hear the voice that speaks to them in its pages; they do not see the love of God through His works. But if you are a true representative of Jesus, it may be that through you they will be led to understand something of His goodness and be won to love and serve Him.

“Christians are set as light bearers on the way to heaven. They are to reflect to the world the light shining upon them from Christ. Their life and character should be such that through them others will get a right conception of Christ and of His service.” —*Steps to Christ*, p. 115.

**6. Having become restored to shine God's law upon the world, is there a deliberate work these restored souls are engaged in?
Isa. 58:12-14**

“Here are given the characteristics of those who shall be reformers, who will bear the banner of the third angel's message, those who avow themselves God's commandment-keeping people, and who honor God, and are earnestly engaged, in the sight of all the universe, in building up the old waste places. Who is it that calls them, The repairers of the breach, The restorers of paths to dwell in? It is God. Their names are registered in

heaven as reformers, restorers, as raising the foundations of many generations.” —*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 4*, p. 1151.

7. What will the work of these redeemed souls effect upon the conscience of those believers who claim to be Christians? Ex. 16:4 (last section); Acts 17:30

“Now, in these last days of this earth’s history, the commandment-keeping people of God by keeping His law are to make earnest efforts to exalt the Lord God of heaven. The Word of God is specific, marking to a certainty the opposing influences against the seventh-day Sabbath, which is the sign of God and by which the loyalty of His people is tested.” —*Manuscript Releases Vol. 18*, p. 30.

“All the world will be tested, and all that have been in the darkness of error in regard to the Sabbath of the fourth commandment will understand the last message of mercy that is to be given to men.” —*Manuscript Releases Vol. 17*, p. 23.

MEDITATION

“The whole duty of man is summed up in its sacred precepts. In the heart of the law is the commandment enjoining upon man the observance of the Sabbath of Jehovah, which the world and the church have trodden under their feet. For centuries men have walked in blindness concerning the true Sabbath, and the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now is the day of reformation, and he calls upon men everywhere to repent. When the light of God’s disregarded commandment shone upon the path of those who sincerely loved God, they delayed not to keep his statutes. They realized that they must come out from the world and be separate, and touch not the unclean, that they might claim the promise, "I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty." They became the repairers of the breach that has been made in the law of God, because they turned away their feet from the Sabbath, from doing their pleasure on God’s holy day, and called the

Sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord, honorable, and did honor him, not speaking their own words or finding their own pleasure.” —*The Signs of the Times*, Feb. 3, 1888.

Commencement of the Sabbath Test

And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened. Revelation 15:5

OBJECTIVES

- To comprehend the significance of Revelation 15:5.
- To identify the commencement of Sabbath restoration.
- To let Inspiration clarify the testing messages of end times.

TABERNACLE OF THE TESTIMONY

- 1. What was located in the second apartment of the Hebrew sanctuary? Ex. 31:18; 25:21; 36:33, 34**

“In the most holy place stood the ark, a chest of precious wood overlaid with gold, the depository of the two tables of stone upon which God had inscribed the law of Ten Commandments. Above the ark, and forming the cover to the sacred chest, was the mercy seat, a magnificent piece of workmanship, surmounted by two cherubim, one at each end, and all wrought of solid gold. In this apartment the divine presence was manifested in the cloud of glory between the cherubim.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 412.

2. Is it important to recognise the expression “tabernacle of the testimony” as cited in Rev. 15:5 to be clearly aligned with the same terminology regarding the earthly sanctuary? Ex. 38:21; Rev. 15:5

“In holy vision John was taken into the heavenly sanctuary. He says: "The temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament." "And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened." The sanctuary that Moses was commanded to make was to be after the pattern of the heavenly sanctuary. In the ark were placed the ten commandments which had been written by the finger of God. The law that was placed in the ark on earth was a copy of the law that is contained in the ark of the testament in heaven, and the precepts of Jehovah are immutable. The ten commandments constitute the moral standard of character. God requires on the part of man perfect conformity to his law, and a curse is pronounced against everyone who continues not in all things written in the law to do them.” —*The Signs of the Times*, June 11, 1894.

3. Does it stand to reason from Scripture that the testimony spoken of in Exodus is the same spoken of in Revelation? Rev. 11:19; Ex. 32:15, 16

“When God’s temple in heaven is opened, what a triumphant time that will be for all who have been faithful and true! In the temple will be seen the ark of the testament in which were placed the two tables of stone, on which are written God’s law. These tables of stone will be brought forth from

their hiding place, and on them will be seen the Ten Commandments engraved by the finger of God. These tables of stone now lying in the ark of the testament will be a convincing testimony to the truth and binding claims of God's law." —*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 7, p. 972.*

SABBATH IN THE TESTIMONY

4. If the testimony on earth is the same as that in heaven, does it naturally follow that the fourth commandment pertaining to the Sabbath is also in heaven? Isa. 66:22, 23

“But the Lord gave me a view of the heavenly sanctuary. The temple of God was open in heaven, and I was shown the ark of God covered with the mercy seat. Two angels stood one at either end of the ark, with their wings spread over the mercy seat, and their faces turned toward it. This, my accompanying angel informed me, represented all the heavenly host looking with reverential awe toward the law of God, which had been written by the finger of God.

“Jesus raised the cover of the ark, and I beheld the tables of stone on which the ten commandments were written. I was amazed as I saw the fourth commandment in the very center of the ten precepts, with a soft halo of light encircling it. Said the angel, "It is the only one of the ten which defines the living God who created the heavens and the earth and all things that are therein."” —*Life Sketches of Ellen G. White, p. 95.*

5. When Jesus changed His position of ministry in the heavenly sanctuary, was there an awakening to the true Sabbath of the fourth commandment among believers? Isa. 56:1, 2

“They had by faith followed their High Priest from the holy to the most holy, and they saw him pleading his blood before the ark of God. Within that sacred ark is the Father’s law, the same that was spoken by God himself amid the thunders of Sinai, and written with his own finger on the tables of stone. Not one command has been annulled; not a jot or tittle has been changed. While God gave to Moses a copy of his law, he preserved the great original in the sanctuary above. Tracing down its holy precepts, the seekers for truth found, in the very bosom of the decalogue, the fourth commandment, as it was first proclaimed: "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work; but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy man-servant, nor thy maid-servant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day; wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it." [Exodus 20:8-11.]

“The Spirit of God impressed the hearts of these students of his word. The conviction was urged upon them, that they had ignorantly transgressed the fourth commandment by disregarding the Creator’s rest-day. They began to examine the reasons for observing the first day of the week instead of the day which God had sanctified. They could find no evidence in the Scriptures that the fourth commandment had been abolished, or that the Sabbath had been changed; the blessing which first hallowed the seventh day had never been removed. They had been honestly seeking to know and do God’s will, and now, as they saw themselves transgressors of his law, sorrow filled their hearts. They at once evinced their loyalty to God by keeping his Sabbath holy.” —*The Spirit of Prophecy Vol. 4*, pp. 273, 274.

THE SABBATH TEST

6. Upon the event of Christ’s opening His ministration in the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary, were His people thereafter presented with a test? Acts 17:30

“I saw that Jesus had shut the door of the holy place, and no man can open it; and that He had opened the door into the most holy, and no man can shut it (Revelation 3:7,8); and that since Jesus has opened the door into the most holy place, which contains the ark, the commandments have been shining out to God’s people, and they are being tested on the Sabbath question.

“I saw that the present test on the Sabbath could not come until the mediation of Jesus in the holy place was finished and He had passed within the second veil; therefore Christians who fell asleep before the door was opened into the most holy, when the midnight cry was finished, at the seventh month, 1844, and who had not kept the true Sabbath, now rest in hope; for they had not the light and the test on the Sabbath which we now have since that door was opened. I saw that Satan was tempting some of God’s people on this point. Because so many good Christians have fallen asleep in the triumphs of faith and have not kept the true Sabbath, they were doubting about its being a test for us now.” —*Early Writings*, p. 42.

7. What ongoing task was given to the people of God following Christ’s change of ministration in heaven? Rev. 10:8-11

“But the people were not yet ready to meet their Lord. There was still a work of preparation to be accomplished for them. Light was to be given, directing their minds to the temple of God in heaven; and as they should by faith follow their High Priest in His ministration there, new duties would be revealed. Another message of warning and instruction was to be given to the church.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 424.

Test of Loyalty

*...that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no.
Exodus 16:4*

OBJECTIVES

- To see God placing tests before His people.
- To show that the keeping of the Sabbath is a sign of loyalty to God.
- To study God's testing revelations during end times.

GOD'S TESTS OF LOYALTY

1. In the story of Adam and Eve in Eden, how did God test them regarding their loyalty to Him? Gen. 2:15-17

“Our first parents, though created innocent and holy, were not placed beyond the possibility of wrongdoing. . . . They were to enjoy communion with God and with holy angels; but before they could be rendered eternally secure, their loyalty must be tested. At the very beginning of man's existence a check was placed upon the desire for self-indulgence, the fatal passion that lay at the foundation of Satan's fall. The tree of knowledge, which stood near the tree of life in the midst of the garden, was to be a test of the obedience, faith, and love of our first parents. While permitted to eat freely of every other tree, they were forbidden to taste of this, on pain of death. They were also to be exposed to the temptations of Satan; but if they endured the trial, they would finally be placed beyond his power, to enjoy perpetual favor with God.” —*Conflict and Courage*, p. 13.

2. Did God place a test before the Hebrews after redeeming them from Egyptian slavery? Ex. 16:4, 5; Deut. 8:1-3

“The manna was as coriander seed and the color of bdellium. And the people went about and gathered it, and ground it in the mills or beat it in a mortar, and baked it in pans, and made cakes of it. Thus there was something to be done in the preparation even of the heaven-sent bread for the children of Israel. This was a test for them. God desired to see whether or not they would keep the Sabbath holy. The Lord told the children of Israel that this work must be done on the preparation day, Friday. On that day they were to bake that which they would bake, and seethe that they would seethe.” —*The Bible Echo*, Feb. 13, 1899.

3. Is there a parallel lesson for us to gain from God’s testing of the Hebrews? Heb. 4:1, 2

“The Lord is no less particular now in regard to His Sabbath than when He gave the foregoing special directions to the children of Israel. He required them to bake that which they would bake, and seethe (that is, boil) that which they would seethe, on the sixth day, preparatory to the rest of the Sabbath. Those who neglect to make suitable preparation on the sixth day for the Sabbath violate the fourth commandment, and are transgressors of God’s law. In His instructions to the Israelites, God forbade baking and boiling upon the Sabbath. That prohibition should be regarded by all Sabbathkeepers as a solemn injunction from Jehovah to them. The Lord would guard His people from indulging in gluttony upon the Sabbath, which He has set apart for sacred meditation and worship.” —*Be Like Jesus*, p. 137.

SIGN OF LOYALTY

4. Does Scripture associate the keeping of the Sabbath with honouring God? Isa. 58:13

“Many say they would keep the Sabbath if it were convenient to do so. But this day is not yours; it is God’s day, and you have no more right to take it than you have to steal my purse. God has reserved it, sanctified and blessed it; and it is your duty to devote this time to His service, to make it honorable, to call it a delight.” —*In Heavenly Places*, p. 152.

5. How vividly does God reveal the Sabbath day to be kept as a sign of loyalty between His people and Him? Ex. 31:16, 17

“Those who in the face of these specifications refuse to repent of their transgressions will realize the result of disobedience. Individually we need to inquire, In observing a day of rest, have I drawn my faith from the Scriptures, or from a spurious representation of truth? Every soul who fastens himself to the divine, everlasting covenant, made and presented to us as a sign and mark of God’s government, fastens himself to the golden chain of obedience, every link of which is a promise. He shows that he regards God’s Word as above the word of man, God’s love as preferable to the love of man. And those who repent of transgression, and return to their loyalty by accepting God’s mark, show themselves to be true subjects, ready to do His will, to obey His commandments. True observance of the Sabbath is the sign of loyalty to God” —*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 7*, p. 981.

6. Does loyalty to God in Sabbath keeping pertain only to national Israel? Isa. 56:1, 2, 3, 6, 8

“There are those who hold that the Sabbath was given only for the Jews; but God has never said this. He committed the Sabbath to His people Israel as a sacred trust, but the very fact that the desert of Sinai, and not Palestine, was the place selected by Him in which to proclaim His law reveals that He intended it for all humankind. The law of Ten Commandments is as old as creation. Therefore the Sabbath institution has no special relation to the Jews, any more than to all other created beings. God has made the observance of the Sabbath obligatory upon all people. "The Sabbath," it is plainly stated, "was made for man." Let everyone, therefore, who is in danger of being deceived on this point give heed to the Word of God rather than the assertions of humans.” —*Christ Triumphant*, p. 355.

END-TIME TEST

7. Is there scriptural evidence that the whole world is being tested on the Sabbath question? Rev. 14:6, 7, 9, 10

“Every person has been placed on trial, as were Adam and Eve in Eden. As the tree of knowledge was placed in the midst of the Garden of Eden, so the Sabbath command is placed in the midst of the Decalogue. In regard to the fruit of the tree of knowledge, the restriction was made, Ye shall not eat of it . . . lest ye die. Of the Sabbath, God said, Ye shall not defile it, but keep it holy. . . . As the tree of knowledge was the test of Adam’s obedience, so the fourth command is the test that God has given to prove the loyalty of all His people. The experience of Adam is to be a warning to us so long as time

shall last. It warns us not to receive any assurance from the mouths of mortals or of angels that will detract one jot or tittle from the sacred law of Jehovah.” —*Christ Triumphant*, p. 355.

**8. If the Sabbath test for the world commenced from the time of the change of Christ’s ministration in heaven, is there evidence of any intensifying of such a test culminating in a grand final showdown?
Rev. 13:15-17**

“Sundaykeeping is not yet the mark of the beast, and will not be until the decree goes forth causing men to worship this idol sabbath. The time will come when this day will be the test, but that time has not come yet.”

“God has given men the Sabbath as a sign between Him and them as a test of their loyalty. Those who, after the light regarding God’s law comes to them, continue to disobey and exalt human laws above the law of God in the great crisis before us, will receive the mark of the beast.”

“The Sabbath will be the great test of loyalty, for it is the point of truth especially controverted. When the final test shall be brought to bear upon men, then the line of distinction will be drawn between those who serve God and those who serve Him not.” —*Last Day Events*, pp. 224, 225.

MEDITATION

“Everywhere there are hearts crying out for the living God. The Lord has His representatives in all the churches. These persons have not had the special testing truths for the last days presented to them under circumstances that brought conviction to the heart and mind; therefore they have not, by rejecting light, severed their connection with God.” —*Australasian Union Conference Record*, Aug. 1, 1902.

“God would not pronounce the death sentence for a disregard of the Sabbath unless He had presented before His people a clear understanding of the Sabbath.” —*Christ Triumphant*, p. 18.

The Seal of God

And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had yet being uncircumcised... Romans 4:11

OBJECTIVES

- To search for the meaning of “seal” in Scripture.
- To identify the seal of God.
- To seek to understand the sacred relationship God signified by His Sabbath commandment.

THE SCRIPTURAL SEAL

1. What is written regarding Abraham in his association with God? Rom. 4:3; James 2:23

“Of Abraham it is written that “he was called the friend of God,” “the father of all them that believe.” James 2:23; Romans 4:11. The testimony of God concerning this faithful patriarch is, “Abraham obeyed My voice, and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws.” And again, “I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment; that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.” 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. But He who called

the patriarch judged him worthy. It is God that speaks. He who understands the thoughts afar off, and places the right estimate upon men, says, "I know him." There would be on the part of Abraham no betraying of the truth for selfish purposes. He would keep the law and deal justly and righteously. And he would not only fear the Lord himself, but would cultivate religion in his home. He would instruct his family in righteousness. The law of God would be the rule in his household." —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 140.

2. Was there an outward sign by which God consolidated the righteousness which Abraham received by faith? Rom. 4:10-12

"The Lord appeared unto Abraham, and said unto him, "I am the Almighty God. Walk before me, and be thou perfect, and I will make a covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly. And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee and to thy seed after thee."

"He then required of Abraham and his seed circumcision, which was a circle cut in the flesh, as a token that God had cut them out and separated them from all nations as his peculiar treasure. By this sign they solemnly pledged themselves that they would not intermarry with other nations; for by so doing they would lose their reverence for God and his holy law, and would become like the idolatrous nations around them." —*Spiritual Gifts Vol. 3*, pp. 296, 297.

3. What can we learn from Abraham's example as to the meaning of the word *seal*? 2 Tim. 2:19; Job 41:15-17

“The sealing is a pledge from God of perfect security to His chosen ones. Sealing indicates you are God’s chosen. He has appropriated you to Himself. As the sealed of God we are Christ’s purchased possession, and no one shall pluck us out of His hands.” —*Christ Triumphant*, p. 102.

GOD’S SEAL

4. Using God’s description of *seal* in Job 41:17 as “joined one to another ... that they cannot be sundered”, is there something pertaining to God that cannot be sundered? Ps. 119:137, 138, 172

“The question you need to put to yourselves is, "Am I a Christian?" To be a Christian is to be far more than many understand. It means more than simply having your name upon the church records. It means to be joined to Christ. It means to have simple faith, unwavering reliance upon God. It means to have childlike confidence in your heavenly Father through the name and merit of His dear Son. Do you love to keep the commandments of God, because the commandments of God are God’s precepts, the transcript of His character, and can no more be altered than can the character of God? Do you respect and love the law of Jehovah?” —*The Faith I Live By*, p. 130.

“The grace of Christ and the law of God are inseparable. In Jesus mercy and truth are met together.... He was the representative of God and the exemplar of humanity.” —*God’s Amazing Grace*, p. 74.

5. Which of the commandments in particular can be identified as having a sealing identity? Ex. 20:10, 11

“The seal of God’s law is found in the fourth commandment. This only, of all the ten, brings to view both the name and the title of the Lawgiver. It

declares Him to be the Creator of the heavens and the earth, and thus shows His claim to reverence and worship above all others. Aside from this precept, there is nothing in the Decalogue to show by whose authority the law is given.” —*The Faith I Live By*, p. 287.

SEALED BY THE SABBATH

6. Having seen that God’s law is righteousness, a transcript of His character, what is the gospel of Jesus Christ designed to achieve? Gal. 5:5, 6; 1 Cor. 1:30; 1 Thess. 4:3 (1st half)

“When the heart is cleansed from sin, Christ is placed on the throne that self-indulgence and love of earthly treasure once occupied. The image of Christ is seen in the expression of the countenance. The work of sanctification is carried forward in the soul. Self-righteousness is banished. There is seen the putting on of the new man, which after Christ is created in righteousness and true holiness.” —*God’s Amazing Grace*, p. 96.

7. How does Scripture articulate the application of the seal among the disciples of Jesus? Isa. 8:16

“One of authority came forward and said solemnly, "Bind up the testimony and seal the law among my disciples." Then came the reproof, decided, firm, and cutting: "The Sabbath truth is to be proclaimed. It is the truth for these last days." The words found in Exodus 31:12-18 were repeated with great solemnity.” —*Manuscript Release n°760*, p. 2.

8. Does God express the sign by which He seals His work of righteousness in His people as He did in consolidating His righteousness in Abraham? Ex. 31:13, 17

“As the Sabbath was the sign that distinguished Israel when they came out of Egypt to enter the earthly Canaan, so it is the sign that now distinguishes God’s people as they come out from the world to enter the heavenly rest. The Sabbath is a sign of the relationship existing between God and His people, a sign that they honor His law. It distinguishes between His loyal subjects and transgressors.” —*Counsels for the Church*, p. 261.

“What is the condition of those who keep the commandments of God and have the faith of Jesus? If in families there are those who are refusing obedience to the Lord in keeping His Sabbath, then the seal cannot be placed upon them. The sealing is a pledge from God of perfect security to His chosen ones. Sealing indicates you are God’s chosen. He has appropriated you to Himself. As the sealed of God we are Christ’s purchased possession, and no one shall pluck us out of His hands.” —*Christ Triumphant*, p. 102.

MEDITATION

“From the pillar of cloud Christ declared concerning the Sabbath: “Verily My Sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the Lord that doth sanctify you.” Exodus 31:13. The Sabbath given to the world as the sign of God as the Creator is also the sign of Him as the Sanctifier. The power that created all things is the power that re-creates the soul in His own likeness. To those who keep holy the Sabbath day it is the sign of sanctification. True sanctification is harmony with God, oneness with Him in character. It is received through obedience to those principles that are the transcript of His character. And the Sabbath is the sign of obedience. He who from the heart obeys the fourth commandment will obey the whole law. He is sanctified through obedience.

“To us as to Israel the Sabbath is given “for a perpetual covenant.” To those who reverence His holy day the Sabbath is a sign that God recognizes them as His chosen people. It is a pledge that He will fulfill to them His covenant. Every soul who accepts the sign of God’s government places himself under the divine, everlasting covenant. He fastens himself to the golden chain of obedience, every link of which is a promise.” —*Counsels for the Church*, pp. 261, 262.

Sealing Time of the 144,000

Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. Revelation 7:3

OBJECTIVES

- To revisit the meaning of the seal and the commencement of it.
- To identify the period spoken of in the sealing of the 144,000.
- To understand the experience of being sealed among the 144,000.

THE SEALING SABBATH TEST

1. What have we learnt as to where we find the seal of God in His law? Est. 8:8

“The seal of God’s law is found in the fourth commandment. This only, of all the ten, brings to view both the name and the title of the Lawgiver. It declares Him to be the Creator of the heavens and the earth, and thus shows His claim to reverence and worship above all others. Aside from this precept, there is nothing in the Decalogue to show by whose authority the law is given.” —*The Faith I Live By*, p. 287.

2. If the Sabbath commandment contains the seal of God, what else did we learn as to the time that commandment became a test, the Sabbath test for the world? Rev. 15:5; 11:19

“I saw that Jesus had shut the door of the holy place, and no man can open it; and that He had opened the door into the most holy, and no man can shut it (Revelation 3:7,8); and that since Jesus has opened the door into the most holy place, which contains the ark, the commandments have been shining out to God’s people, and they are being tested on the Sabbath question.” —*Early Writings*, p. 42.

“When the temple of God was opened in heaven, John saw in holy vision a class of people whose attention was arrested and who were looking with reverential awe at the ark, which contained the law of God. The special test upon the fourth commandment did not come until after the temple of God was opened in heaven.” —*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 2*, p. 693.

3. When in history was this opening into the most holy place in the heavenly sanctuary identified by prophecy? Dan. 8:14

“Thus those who followed in the light of the prophetic word saw that, instead of coming to the earth at the termination of the 2300 days in 1844, Christ then entered the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary to perform the closing work of atonement preparatory to His coming.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 422.

THE SEALING TIME

4. Can we find an indication from prophecy as to the time period during which the 144,000 were to be sealed? Rev. 7:1-3

“I asked my accompanying angel the meaning of what I heard, and what the four angels were about to do. He said to me that it was God that restrained the powers, and that He gave His angels charge over things on the earth; that the four angels had power from God to hold the four winds, and that they were about to let them go; but while their hands were loosening, and the four winds were about to blow, the merciful eye of Jesus gazed on the remnant that were not sealed, and He raised His hands to the Father and pleaded with Him that He had spilled His blood for them. Then another angel was commissioned to fly swiftly to the four angels and bid them hold, until the servants of God were sealed with the seal of the living God in their foreheads.” —*Early Writings*, p. 38.

“In 1848 occurred one of the greatest upheavals in the national affairs of Europe that had been for many centuries. Decided changes were made in some of the leading nations. In a brief period of time, many of the crowned heads of Europe submitted themselves to the people. It looked as if universal war was inevitable. In the midst of the turmoil and strife, came a sudden calm. No man could assign any reason for it, but the student of prophecy knew that the angels were holding the winds until the servants of God could be sealed in their foreheads.” —Stephen N. Haskell, *The Cross and Its Shadow*, p. 363.

5. Is it possible to discern the correlation between the time of the test on the Sabbath and the time of commencement of the sealing of the 144,000?

“Every individual soul, if he would receive the seal of the living God, must hear the Word of the Lord, and do it with exactitude. There must be no such thing as haphazard religion if men would have a place in the family of God.

“Now is the time, while the four angels are holding the four winds, to make our calling and election sure.” —*The Faith I Live By*, p. 288.

“The prophet saw "four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the

earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree." Another angel, ascending from the east, cried to them, saying, "Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads." This points out the work we now have to do, which is to cry to God for the angels to hold the four winds until missionaries shall be sent to all parts of the world, and shall have proclaimed the warning against disobeying the law of Jehovah." —*Last Day Events*, p. 125.

THE SEALING EXPERIENCE

6. If the sealing of the 144,000 evidently spans a period of time while Christ ministers in the most holy of the sanctuary, can it be verified that some who are being sealed during this time have actually died? Rev. 14:12, 13; Dan. 12:1, 2

“That voice shakes the heavens and the earth. There is a mighty earthquake, "such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great." Revelation 16:18. . . . The whole earth heaves and swells like the waves of the sea. Its surface is breaking up. Its very foundations seem to be giving way. . . .

“Graves are opened, and "many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth . . . awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt." Daniel 12:2. All who have died in the faith of the third angel’s message come forth from the tomb glorified, to hear God’s covenant of peace with those who have kept His law.

“Those who had died in faith under the third angel’s message, keeping the Sabbath, came forth from their dusty beds.” —*The Faith I Live By*, p. 182.

7. What is everyone who is being sealed to be among the 144,000 doing during this period? 1 Pet. 5:10; Col. 1:22, 23

“Just as soon as the people of God are sealed in their foreheads--it is not any seal or mark that can be seen, but a settling into the truth, both intellectually and spiritually, so they cannot be moved--just as soon as God’s people are sealed and prepared for the shaking, it will come. Indeed, it has begun already; the judgments of God are now upon the land, to give us warning, that we may know what is coming” —*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 4*, p. 1161.

8. Does the Spirit of Prophecy clarify that the 144,000 are comprised of those living and those who have died and arisen before Christ’s visible coming?

“Graves are opened, and “many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth . . . awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.” Daniel 12:2. All who have died in the faith of the third angel’s message come forth from the tomb glorified, to hear God’s covenant of peace with those who have kept His law.”

“The voice of God is heard from heaven, declaring the day and hour of Jesus’ coming, and delivering the everlasting covenant to His people. ... And when the blessing is pronounced on those who have honored God by keeping His Sabbath holy, there is a mighty shout of victory.” —*The Faith I Live By*, p. 182.

“Soon we heard the voice of God like many waters, which gave us the day and hour of Jesus’ coming. The living saints, 144,000 in number, knew and understood the voice, while the wicked thought it was thunder and an earthquake. When God spoke the time, He poured upon us the Holy Ghost, and our faces began to light up and shine with the glory of God, as Moses’ did when he came down from Mount Sinai.” —*Early Writings*, p. 14.

Lead-up to the Final Test

And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. Revelation 18:4

OBJECTIVES

- To reconfirm that the test on the Sabbath commenced in 1844.
- To show the progressive call of heaven on Sabbath reform.
- To identify the final test on the Sabbath for the world.

INITIATION OF THE SABBATH TEST

- 1. Was there a message to this world which drew the attention of the world to the importance of the seventh-day Sabbath? Rev. 14:9, 10**

“After Jesus opened the door of the most holy, the light of the Sabbath was seen, and the people of God were tested, as the children of Israel were tested anciently, to see if they would keep God’s law. I saw the third angel pointing upward, showing the disappointed ones the way to the holiest of the heavenly sanctuary. As they by faith enter the most holy, they find Jesus, and hope and joy spring up anew. I saw them looking back, reviewing the past, from the proclamation of the second advent of Jesus, down through their experience to the passing of the time in 1844. They see their disappointment explained, and joy and certainty again animate them. The

third angel has lighted up the past, the present, and the future, and they know that God has indeed led them by His mysterious providence.” —*Early Writings*, p. 254.

2. How clearly does the third angel’s message reveal a people who respond to his message to keep all the commandments?

Rev. 14:12

““Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus" [Revelation 14:12]. In vision John beheld the contrast between those who worship the beast and his image, and those who worship God. We are living under the message of the third angel; and the warning is now to be given by all who are loyal to God’s government.” —*Manuscript Releases Vol. 19*, p. 184.

A SWELLING PROGRESS

3. Does Scripture express the progressive nature of truth unfolding to the believer? Prov. 4:18; Hos. 6:3

“The Word of God presents special truths for every age. The dealings of God with His people in the past should receive our careful attention. We should learn the lessons which they are designed to teach us. But we are not to rest content with them. God is leading out His people step by step. Truth is progressive. The earnest seeker will be constantly receiving light from heaven. What is truth? should ever be our inquiry” —*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 2*, p. 1000.

“You have watched the rising sun, and the gradual break of day over earth and sky. Little by little the dawn increases, till the sun appears; then the light

grows constantly stronger and clearer until the full glory of noontide is reached. This is a beautiful illustration of what God desires to do for His children in perfecting their Christian experience. As we walk day by day in the light He sends us, in willing obedience to all His requirements, our experience grows and broadens until we reach the full stature of men and women in Christ Jesus.” —*God’s Amazing Grace*, p. 300.

4. As the third angel’s message brought the Sabbath of the fourth commandment to light, how does Inspiration describe its ongoing work? Rev. 14:9 (first part)

“As the third angel’s message swells into a loud cry, great power and glory will attend its proclamation. The faces of God’s people will shine with the light of heaven.” —*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 7*, p. 17.

5. In the swelling of the message of this angel, is there a reciprocal resistance to it raised by the Sunday-keeping churches? Rev. 13:15-17

“I saw that God had children who do not see and keep the Sabbath. They have not rejected the light upon it. And at the commencement of the time of trouble, we were filled with the Holy Ghost as we went forth and proclaimed the Sabbath more fully. This enraged the churches and nominal Adventists, as they could not refute the Sabbath truth. And at this time God’s chosen all saw clearly that we had the truth, and they came out and endured the persecution with us. I saw the sword, famine, pestilence, and great confusion in the land. The wicked thought that we had brought the judgments upon them, and they rose up and took counsel to rid the earth of us, thinking that

then the evil would be stayed.” —*Christian Experience and Teachings of Ellen G. White*, p. 93.

REACHING THE FINAL TEST

6. As the Sabbath truth is being proclaimed with ever-increasing power, what is written regarding the ever-increasing demise of the churches? 2 Tim. 3:13; Rev. 18:1-3

“The second angel’s message of Revelation 14 was first preached in the summer of 1844, and it then had a more direct application to the churches of the United States, where the warning of the judgment had been most widely proclaimed and most generally rejected, and where the declension in the churches had been most rapid. But the message of the second angel did not reach its complete fulfillment in 1844. The churches then experienced a moral fall, in consequence of their refusal of the light of the Advent message; but that fall was not complete. As they have continued to reject the special truths for this time, they have fallen lower and lower.” —*The Faith I Live By*, p. 285.

7. Although the Sabbath became a test for Christians ever since 1844, under what circumstances will it reach its final test? Rev. 13:16

“When Sunday observance shall be enforced by law, and the world shall be enlightened concerning the obligation of the true Sabbath, then whoever shall transgress the command of God, to obey a precept which has no higher authority than that of Rome, will thereby honor popery above God. He is paying homage to Rome and to the power which enforces the institution

ordained by Rome. He is worshipping the beast and his image. As men then reject the institution which God has declared to be the sign of His authority, and honor in its stead that which Rome has chosen as the token of her supremacy, they will thereby accept the sign of allegiance to Rome—"the mark of the beast." And it is not until the issue is thus plainly set before the people, and they are brought to choose between the commandments of God and the commandments of men, that those who continue in transgression will receive "the mark of the beast.'" —*Maranatha*, p. 169.

8. Is there during that final test a message for God's people in Babylon? Rev. 18:4

"Revelation 18 points to the time when, as the result of rejecting the threefold warning of Revelation 14:6-12, the church will have fully reached the condition foretold by the second angel, and the people of God still in Babylon will be called upon to separate from her communion. This message is the last that will ever be given to the world; and it will accomplish its work. When those that "believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness" (2 Thessalonians 2:12), shall be left to receive strong delusion and to believe a lie, then the light of truth will shine upon all whose hearts are open to receive it, and all the children of the Lord that remain in Babylon will heed the call: "Come out of her, My people" (Revelation 18:4)." —*The Great Controversy*, p. 390.

A Life and Death Question

Ye shall keep the sabbath therefore; for it is holy unto you: every one that defileth it shall surely be put to death. Exodus 31:14

OBJECTIVES

- To understand the effect of Sabbath ignorance on humanity.
- To let Scripture reveal the baleful consequence of Sabbath breaking for those who do so deliberately or defiantly.
- To see the reason for the seven last plagues upon the unbelieving world.

SABBATH IGNORANCE

1. What does Scripture tell us regarding the unbeliever's ignorance of the Creator of heaven and earth? 2 Pet. 3:5

“I am instructed to say that it is not because of lack of opportunity to know the will and way of God that sinners must perish, but because of their determination to carry out their own will. They refuse to become spiritually enlightened in the Word of God. Willingly they remain ignorant of the privileges of the Christian and of his duty day by day to inquire of God. The Lord desires to give to everyone a deep, intelligent experience in spiritual life. But many are contented with a haphazard experience.” —*The Upward Look*, p. 297.

2. If humanity would have kept the Sabbath, what are we told regarding humanity's acknowledgment of their Creator? Isa. 46:8, 9

“The Sabbath enjoined by the fourth commandment was instituted to commemorate the work of creation, thus to keep the minds of men ever directed to the true and living God. Had the Sabbath always been kept, there would never have been an idolater, an atheist, or an infidel. The sacred observance of God's holy day would have led the minds of men to their Creator. The things of nature would have brought Him to their remembrance, and they would have borne witness to His power and His love. The Sabbath of the fourth commandment is the seal of the living God. It points to God as the Creator, and is the sign of His rightful authority over the beings He has made.” —*The Signs of the Times*, Nov. 1, 1899.

DEFIANT SABBATH BREAKING

3. With what serious consequences does God announce the violation of God's holy day? Ex. 3:14, 15

“The Sabbath was made for the benefit of man; and to knowingly transgress the holy commandment forbidding labor upon the seventh day is a crime in the sight of heaven which was of such magnitude under the Mosaic law as to require the death of the offender. But this was not all that the offender was to suffer, for God would not take a transgressor of His law to heaven. He must suffer the second death, which is the full and final penalty for the transgressor of the law of God.” —*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 1*, p. 533.

**4. Was there an example of this in the history of the Hebrews?
Num. 15:32-36**

**5. Why was this man stoned, why did he deserve death?
Num. 15:29-32**

“Soon after the return into the wilderness, an instance of Sabbath violation occurred, under circumstances that rendered it a case of peculiar guilt. The Lord’s announcement that He would disinherit Israel had roused a spirit of rebellion. One of the people, angry at being excluded from Canaan, and determined to show his defiance of God’s law, ventured upon the open transgression of the fourth commandment by going out to gather sticks upon the Sabbath. During the sojourn in the wilderness the kindling of fires upon the seventh day had been strictly prohibited. The prohibition was not to extend to the land of Canaan, where the severity of the climate would often render fires a necessity; but in the wilderness, fire was not needed for warmth. The act of this man was a willful and deliberate violation of the fourth commandment--a sin, not of thoughtlessness or ignorance, but of presumption.” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 408.

DEATH FOR AN UNBELIEVING WORLD

6. Seeing that God differentiates between the sin of genuine ignorance and open defiance against His commands, are we told how He deals with the genuinely ignorant? Acts 17:30, 31

“God would not pronounce the death sentence for a disregard of the Sabbath unless He had presented before His people a clear understanding of the Sabbath.” —*Christ Triumphant*, p. 18.

7. With what deliberation does God address an unbelieving world to arouse them out of their ignorance? Rev. 14:6, 7, 9-11; 18:4

“The most fearful threatening ever addressed to mortals is contained in the third angel’s message. That must be a terrible sin which calls down the wrath of God unmingled with mercy. Men are not to be left in darkness concerning this important matter; the warning against this sin is to be given to the world before the visitation of God’s judgments, that all may know why they are to be inflicted, and have opportunity to escape them.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 449.

“We know that now everything is at stake. The third angel’s message is to be at this time regarded as of the highest importance. It is a life and death question.” —*Manuscript Releases Vol. 14*, p. 159.

8. When the seven last plagues of God’s wrath are finally poured out, what is the condition of humanity that calls for such a death sentence? Matt. 13:14, 15; Jer. 29:19

“I saw that Jesus would not leave the most holy place until every case was decided either for salvation or destruction, and that the wrath of God could not come until Jesus had finished His work in the most holy place, laid off His priestly attire, and clothed Himself with the garments of vengeance. Then Jesus will step out from between the Father and man, and God will

keep silence no longer, but pour out His wrath on those who have rejected His truth.” —*Maranatha*, p. 258.

MEDITATION

“Then my eyes were taken from the glory, and I was pointed to the remnant on the earth. The angel said to them, "Will ye shun the seven last plagues? Will ye go to glory and enjoy all that God has prepared for those who love Him and are willing to suffer for His sake? If so, ye must die that ye may live. Get ready, get ready, get ready. Ye must have a greater preparation than ye now have, for the day of the Lord cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate and to destroy the sinners thereof out of it. Sacrifice all to God. Lay all upon His altar--self, property, and all, a living sacrifice. It will take all to enter glory. Lay up for yourselves treasure in heaven, where no thief can approach or rust corrupt. Ye must be partakers of Christ's sufferings here if ye would be partakers with Him of His glory hereafter."” —*Early Writings*, p. 66.

The Church Triumphant

And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God. Revelation 15:2

OBJECTIVES

- To study the people who have passed the test on the Sabbath.
- To appreciate the challenges they meet during Sunday-law enforcement.
- To behold the reward they receive for their loyalty.

A LOYAL PEOPLE

1. Ever since 1844, what have the loyal people of God been occupied with? Isa. 58:12

“Our minds must not be taken up with things around us, but must be occupied with the present truth and a preparation to give a reason of our hope with meekness and fear. We must seek wisdom from on high that we may stand in this day of error and delusion.”

“I saw that we have no time to throw away in listening to fables. Our minds should not be thus diverted, but should be occupied with the present truth, and seeking wisdom that we may obtain a more thorough knowledge of our position, that with meekness we may be able to give a reason of our hope from the Scriptures. While false doctrines and dangerous errors are pressed

upon the mind, it cannot be dwelling upon the truth which is to fit and prepare the house of Israel to stand in the day of the Lord.” —*Early Writings*, pp. 87, 125.

2. How do these loyal people demonstrate their loyalty? James 2:17, 18; Rev. 14:12

“The Lord in His great mercy sent a most precious message to His people through Elders [E.J.] Waggoner and [A. T.] Jones. This message was to bring more prominently before the world the uplifted Saviour, the sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. It presented justification through faith in the Surety; it invited the people to receive the righteousness of Christ, which is made manifest in obedience to all the commandments of God.” —*Last Day Events*, p. 200.

3. Among all their works of loyalty, is true Sabbath keeping also included? Isa. 56:1, 2

“By observing the Sabbath day wherein God rested, the knowledge of God would be preserved. It is a “sign between Me and you that ye may know that I am the Lord that doth sanctify you.” Those who keep the Sabbath holy as the Lord has specified, reveal that they are His peculiar people, and that He who made the heavens and the earth is their God.”

“Let us reverence God’s institution, the Sabbath day; for it is the sign of our relationship to God, the sign by which we are demonstrated as His people. Let us strive, not to stand highest, but to be always obedient to all of God’s requirements. It is our privilege to be loyal and obedient, true as steel in maintaining the faith. It is through our obedience, and our loyalty to the

truth, that we stand before the world as subjects of Christ's kingdom."
—*Manuscript Releases Vol. 5*, pp. 85, 86.

CHALLENGES OF LOYALTY

- 4. Seeing that true Sabbath keeping has been the test for God's people ever since 1844, does Inspiration address the challenge arising from the danger of becoming slack? Heb. 10:35-39**

“In these last days many influences will arise to draw the worker from standing firmly for a "Thus saith the Lord." Men who themselves have departed from the faith will seek to draw workers into controversy, and by this method attempt to present heresies that will lead souls astray. My brethren, do not be enticed by such influences. Engage in no debate. Take no heed to the persuasions and challenges of those who would draw you from your legitimate work. You have no time to voice their sentiments or to repeat their words. Time is golden; truth is precious. We are to carry forward the work of God in the same spirit of simplicity that has marked our efforts for the past fifty years. But while our work is to be done in simplicity and meekness, we are to stand firmly for the principles of the faith.” —*North Pacific Union Gleaner*, Dec. 11, 1907.

- 5. Among the many challenges meeting Sabbath keepers, which one is cited as of greatest magnitude? Matt. 24:48, 49; 2 Pet. 2:1**

“He mingles with the world. Like grows with like in transgression. It is a fearful assimilation. With the world he is taken in the snare. "The lord of that servant shall come . . . in an hour that he is not aware of, and shall cut

him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites.””
—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 635.

“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 Book 1*, p. 122.

6. When the Sunday law will be enforced, who will be the most effective agents in opposing faithful Sabbath keepers? Ps. 55:12-14

“As the storm approaches, a large class who have professed faith in the third angel’s message, but have not been sanctified through obedience to the truth, abandon their position and join the ranks of the opposition. By uniting with the world and partaking of its spirit, they have come to view matters in nearly the same light; and when the test is brought, they are prepared to choose the easy, popular side. Men of talent and pleasing address, who once rejoiced in the truth, employ their powers to deceive and mislead souls. They become the most bitter enemies of their former brethren. When Sabbathkeepers are brought before the courts to answer for their faith, these apostates are the most efficient agents of Satan to misrepresent and accuse them, and by false reports and insinuations to stir up the rulers against them.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 608.

REWARD FOR LOYALTY

7. Who are the people that are designated as the church triumphant? Rev. 12:17; Isa. 1:9; Zeph. 3:12, 13

“Satan will excite indignation against the humble minority who conscientiously refuse to accept popular customs and traditions. Men of position and reputation will join with the lawless and the vile to take counsel against the people of God. Wealth, genius, education, will combine to cover them with contempt. Persecuting rulers, ministers, and church members will conspire against them. With voice and pen, by boasts, threats, and ridicule, they will seek to overthrow their faith. By false representations and angry appeals, they will stir up the passions of the people. Not having a "Thus saith the Scriptures" to bring against the advocates of the Bible Sabbath, they will resort to oppressive enactments to supply the lack. To secure popularity and patronage, legislators will yield to the demand for a Sunday law. . . . On this battlefield comes the last great conflict of the controversy between truth and error.” —*Christian Service*, p. 158.

“The work is soon to close. The members of the church militant who have proved faithful will become the church triumphant.” —*Evangelism*, p. 707.

8. When Jesus returns, what does He bring with Him, and what is this reward for the triumphant remnant? Rev. 22:11, 12-14; 3:21; 7:14, 15

“Upon the crystal sea before the throne, that sea of glass as it were mingled with fire—so resplendent is it with the glory of God—are gathered the company that have "gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name." With the Lamb upon Mount Zion, "having the harps of God," they stand, the hundred and forty and four thousand that were redeemed from among men; and there is heard, as the sound of many waters, and as the sound of a great thunder, "the voice of harpers harping with their harps." And they sing "a new song" before

the throne, a song which no man can learn save the hundred and forty and four thousand. It is the song of Moses and the Lamb—a song of deliverance. None but the hundred and forty-four thousand can learn that song; for it is the song of their experience—an experience such as no other company have ever had. "These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth." These, having been translated from the earth, from among the living, are counted as "the first fruits unto God and to the Lamb." Revelation 15:2, 3; 14:1-5." —*Heaven*, p. 179.

SECTION 2

**TEST OF TRUE
SABBATH KEEPING**

Introduction

OVER THE PAST three months we have come to appreciate that the test of the Sabbath of the fourth commandment in the Decalogue has come to Christianity ever since 1844. We have learnt that, although the Sabbath test has been applied progressively throughout the period of the last 130 years, it will culminate into a final test for the entire Christian world during the introduction of Sunday laws by the papacy.

In this second section, for the next three months, we will not only recognise the Sabbath test applicable to which day we keep, but whether we are keeping the right day in the right way. Many professed Sabbath-keepers may recognise the seventh day to be the Sabbath, but fail to keep it in the manner required by God. Therefore we will study in this section God's test of true Sabbath keeping.

According to Inspiration, our test as believers in acknowledging the seventh day to be the Sabbath, is whether we truly keep it holy. To be able to do so will be a reflection of the degree of the state of our holiness. Hence, according to the following statement, it becomes a test of our true spiritual condition.

“God designed that its observance should designate them as His worshipers. It was to be a token of their separation from idolatry, and their connection with the true God. But in order to keep the Sabbath holy, men must themselves be holy. Through faith they must become partakers of the righteousness of Christ.”

—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 283.

May the next three months of study bring us into a deeper relationship with our Lord and Saviour as this relationship is reflected in our weekly engagement with Him each Sabbath day.

Jesus, Lord of the Sabbath

The sabbath was made for man, ... Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath. Mark 2:27, 28

OBJECTIVES

- To seek for a relational connection in the Sabbath.
- To see God's mind in His establishment of the Sabbath.
- To recognise Jesus Christ as the source of the Sabbath rest.

SABBATH RELATIONSHIP

- 1. Is the seventh-day Sabbath more than a mere day of the week?**
Gen. 2:3; Ex. 20:11 (last part)

“The Sabbath . . . is God’s time, not ours; when we trespass upon it we are stealing from God. . . . God has given us the whole of six days in which to do our work, and has reserved only one to Himself. This should be a day of blessing to us--a day when we should lay aside all our secular matters and center our thoughts upon God and heaven.”

“Many say they would keep the Sabbath if it were convenient to do so. But this day is not yours; it is God’s day, and you have no more right to take it than you have to steal my purse. God has reserved it, sanctified and blessed it; and it is your duty to devote this time to His service, to make it honorable, to call it a delight.” —*In Heavenly Places*, p. 152.

2. If it is a day God has sanctified, blessed and hallowed, is there some personal attachment He has with this day? Isa. 58:13

“The Sabbath was hallowed at the creation. As ordained for man, it had its origin when "the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy." Job 38:7. Peace brooded over the world; for earth was in harmony with heaven. "God saw everything that He had made, and, behold, it was very good;" and He rested in the joy of His completed work. Genesis 1:31.

“Because He had rested upon the Sabbath, "God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it,"--set it apart to a holy use. He gave it to Adam as a day of rest. It was a memorial of the work of creation, and thus a sign of God's power and His love. The Scripture says, "He hath made His wonderful works to be remembered." "The things that are made," declare "the invisible things of Him since the creation of the world," "even His everlasting power and divinity." Genesis 2:3; Psalm 111:4; Romans 1:20, R. V.” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 281.

3. Is it correct to derive the conclusion that God gave the Sabbath to man because He sought by it to have a warm relationship with humanity? Lev. 26:11, 12; Isa. 56:6, 7

“As the Sabbath was the sign that distinguished Israel when they came out of Egypt to enter the earthly Canaan, so it is the sign that now distinguishes God's people as they come out from the world to enter the heavenly rest. The Sabbath is a sign of a relationship existing between God and His people, a sign that they honor His law. It distinguishes between His loyal subjects and transgressors. . . . The Sabbath given to the world as the sign

of God as the Creator is also the sign of Him as the Sanctifier. The power that created all things is the power that recreates the soul in His own likeness. To those who keep holy the Sabbath day it is the sign of sanctification. True sanctification is harmony with God, oneness with Him in character. It is received through obedience to those principles that are the transcript of His character. And the Sabbath is the sign of obedience. He who from the heart obeys the fourth commandment will obey the whole law. He is sanctified through obedience.” —*God’s Amazing Grace*, p. 156.

GOD’S MIND

4. Are we able to see God’s thoughts toward humanity in the first three questions of this lesson? Jer. 29:11-13

“In brier and thorn, in thistle and tare, is represented the evil that blights and mars. In singing bird and opening blossom, in rain and sunshine, in summer breeze and gentle dew, in ten thousand objects in nature, from the oak of the forest to the violet that blossoms at its root, is seen the love that restores. And nature still speaks to us of God’s goodness.

““I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil.” Jeremiah 29:11. This is the message that, in the light from the cross, may be read upon all the face of nature. The heavens declare His glory, and the earth is full of His riches.” —*Education*, p. 101.

5. How does the Sabbath convey to the Sabbath keepers the thoughts that God has to humanity? Mark 2:27

“The Sabbath was made for man, to be a blessing to him by calling his mind from secular labor to contemplate the goodness and glory of God. It is

necessary that the people of God assemble to talk of Him, to interchange thoughts and ideas in regard to the truths contained in His word, and to devote a portion of time to appropriate prayer. But these seasons, even upon the Sabbath, should not be made tedious by their length and lack of interest.”
—*Counsels for the Church*, p. 265.

6. To really benefit from God’s thoughts in giving us the Sabbath, does Inspiration expand upon the true keeping of it? Ps. 111:1-4

“The parents may take their children outdoors to view God in nature. They can be pointed to the blooming flowers and the opening buds, the lofty trees and beautiful spires of grass, and taught that God made all these in six days and rested on the seventh day and hallowed it. Thus the parents may bind up their lessons of instruction to their children, so that when these children look upon the things of nature, they will call to mind the great Creator of them all. Their thoughts will be carried up to nature’s God—back to the creation of our world, when the foundation of the Sabbath was laid, and all the sons of God shouted for joy. Such are the lessons to be impressed on the minds of our children.” —*Child Guidance*, p. 533.

JESUS, LORD OF THE SABBATH

**7. How did Jesus associate the Sabbath with Himself? Mark 2:27,
28**

“Wherefore the Son of man is Lord also of the Sabbath.” These words are full of instruction and comfort. Because the Sabbath was made for man, it is the Lord’s day. It belongs to Christ. For “all things were made by Him; and without Him was not anything made that was made.” John 1:3. Since

He made all things, He made the Sabbath. By Him it was set apart as a memorial of the work of creation. It points to Him as both the Creator and the Sanctifier. It declares that He who created all things in heaven and in earth, and by whom all things hold together, is the head of the church, and that by His power we are reconciled to God. For, speaking of Israel, He said, "I gave them My Sabbaths, to be a sign between Me and them, that they might know that I am the Lord that sanctify them,"--make them holy. Ezekiel 20:12. Then the Sabbath is a sign of Christ's power to make us holy. And it is given to all whom Christ makes holy. As a sign of His sanctifying power, the Sabbath is given to all who through Christ become a part of the Israel of God." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 288.

8. Does Scripture confirm the close link between Christ's offered rest and the rest provided in Sabbath keeping? Ex. 35:2 (first section); Jer. 17:21, 22; Matt. 11:28-30

“To all who receive the Sabbath as a sign of Christ's creative and redeeming power, it will be a delight. Seeing Christ in it, they delight themselves in Him. The Sabbath points them to the works of creation as an evidence of His mighty power in redemption. While it calls to mind the lost peace of Eden, it tells of peace restored through the Saviour. And every object in nature repeats His invitation, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28.” —*The Faith I Live By*, p. 33.

MEDITATION

“But He who came to our world to seek and to save that which was lost has pledged His own life that men might have a second probation. He has pity, and compassion, and love that are without a parallel; and He has made every provision in behalf of men that none need perish. The divine Son of God came into our world, its Light and Life, to encompass the whole world and to attract and unite to Himself every human being who is under Satan's discipline and rule. He invites them, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn

of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls" (Matthew 11:28, 29). Thus He unites with Himself by a new inspiration of grace all who will come unto Him. He puts upon them His seal, His sign of obedience and loyalty to His holy Sabbath." —*The Upward Look*, p. 285.

“Many say they would keep the Sabbath if it were convenient to do so. But this day is not yours; it is God’s day, and you have no more right to take it than you have to steal my purse. God has reserved it, sanctified and blessed it; and it is your duty to devote this time to His service, to make it honorable, to call it a delight.” —*In Heavenly Places*, p. 152.

Jesus, Lord of Our Life

He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. 1 John 5:12

OBJECTIVES

- To contemplate upon the life we have through Christ.
- To understand the importance of our conscious union with Jesus.
- To gain an affectionate bond with the Sabbath Jesus is Lord of.

LIFE THROUGH CHRIST

1. What did humanity forfeit through sin? Gen. 1:26, 27; 3:8, 9

“Before the entrance of sin, Adam enjoyed open communion with his Maker; but since man separated himself from God by transgression, the human race has been cut off from this high privilege.” —*God’s Amazing Grace*, p. 190.

“It is not toil that degrades men, or that ranks them among the outcasts of society; it is sin. Adam, pure and innocent, and fresh from the hand of God, was given his work. This work did not degrade him. While he was engaged in his appointed work, he never thought of hiding from God, but responded as soon he heard his footsteps in the garden, and hastened to shorten the distance between him and his Maker. What precious communings he had with God! But after he sinned, he feared that every sound was the footstep of God. He did not want to see God, and when he heard him coming, he did not hasten to meet him, but hid himself.” —*The Review and Herald*, Jan. 26, 1897.

2. How was that forfeited life reinstated in humanity? Rom. 5:17-19

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

—*In Heavenly Places*, p. 32.

3. Who only may have this fellowship and life? 1 John 5:12

“If they would open their hearts fully to receive Christ, then the very life of God, His love, would dwell in them, transforming them into His own likeness; and thus through God’s free gift they would possess the righteousness which the law requires.” —*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 54.

A CONSCIOUS UNION

4. What is the great privilege available to the believer? Col. 1:27, 28; John 14:16, 17, 18

“It is your privilege to be one with Christ as He is one with the Father.”
—*Sermons and Talks Vol. 2*, p. 292.

5. With what importunate prayer did Jesus address the intimacy and communion we may have with Him and the Father? John 17:20-23

“We come to God by special invitation, and He waits to welcome us to His audience chamber. . . . We may be admitted into closest intimacy and communion with God.” —*In Heavenly Places*, p. 86.

6. How does Inspiration describe a conscious union with Jesus as our Lord? Ps. 91:1, 14-16

“Rest yourself wholly in the hands of Jesus. Contemplate His great love, and while you meditate upon His self-denial, His infinite sacrifice made in our behalf in order that we should believe in Him, your heart will be filled with holy joy, calm peace, and indescribable love. As we talk of Jesus, as we call upon Him in prayer, our confidence that He is our personal, loving Saviour will strengthen and His character will appear more and more lovely. . . . We may enjoy rich feasts of love, and as we fully believe that we are His by adoption, we may have a foretaste of heaven. Wait upon the Lord in faith. The Lord draws out the soul in prayer, and gives us to feel His precious love. We have a nearness to Him, and can hold sweet communion with Him. We obtain distinct views of His tenderness and compassion, and our hearts are broken and melted with contemplation of the love that is given to us. We feel indeed an abiding Christ in the soul. We abide in Him, and feel at home with Jesus. The promises flow into the soul. Our peace is like a river, wave after wave of glory rolls into the heart, and indeed we sup with Jesus and He with us. We have a realizing sense

of the love of God, and we rest in His love. No language can describe it, it is beyond knowledge. We are one with Christ, our life is hid with Christ in God. We have the assurance that when He who is our life shall appear, then shall we also appear with Him in glory. With strong confidence, we can call God our Father” —*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 3*, p. 1147.

AFFECTIONATE SABBATH KEEPING

7. If Jesus is in such an affectionate fellowship with us, and He is Lord of the Sabbath, how meaningful then does His Sabbath become to us? John 15:13-15

“To all who receive the Sabbath as a sign of Christ’s creative and redeeming power, it will be a delight.” —*The Faith I Live By*, p. 33.

“Let every family of Seventh-day Adventists honor God by a strict regard for his law. The children should be taught to respect the Sabbath. On the day of preparation, clothing should be put in proper repair, shoes polished, baths taken. Then around the family altar all should wait to welcome God’s holy day, as they would watch for the coming of a dear friend.” —*The Signs of the Times*, May 25, 1882 (second article).

8. Is the Sabbath a token of a special relationship between God and His people? Ex. 31:13, 14 (first part)

“As the Sabbath was the sign that distinguished Israel when they came out of Egypt to enter the earthly Canaan, so it is the sign that now distinguishes God’s people as they come out from the world to enter the heavenly rest. The Sabbath is a sign of the relationship existing between God and His people, a sign that they honor His law. It distinguishes between His loyal subjects and transgressors.” —*Counsels for the Church*, p. 261.

To Welcome Each Sabbath

This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. Psalm 118:24

OBJECTIVES

- To expand upon the delight found in God’s presence.
- To associate the Sabbath hours with the delight of God’s presence.
- To see that delight as the motive to welcome each Sabbath.

GOD’S DELIGHTFUL PRESENCE

1. How does Scripture describe God’s presence in the life of a believer? Ps. 16:11

“Wherever we go, we bear the abiding presence of the One so dear to us; for we abide in Christ by a living faith. He is abiding in our hearts by our individual, appropriating faith. We have the companionship of the divine Jesus, and as we realize his presence, our thoughts are brought into captivity to him. Our experience in divine things will be in proportion to the vividness of our sense of his companionship.” —*Healthful Living*, p. 301.

2. Where else in Scripture is expressed the delight found with God? Song 2:3 (last half), 4

“In our knowledge of Christ and His love the kingdom of God is placed in the midst of us. Christ is revealed to us in sermons and chanted to us in songs. The spiritual banquet is set before us in rich abundance. The wedding garment, provided at infinite cost, is freely offered to every soul. By the messengers of God are presented to us the righteousness of Christ, justification by faith, the exceeding great and precious promises of God’s word, free access to the Father by Christ, the comfort of the Spirit, the well-grounded assurance of eternal life in the kingdom of God. What could God do for us that He has not done in providing the great supper, the heavenly banquet?” —*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 317.

THE SABBATH BANQUET

3. If in the presence of God there is pleasure, joy, and a banquet of love, will the day He has set aside for us to spend with Him be the most welcome day of the week? Ps. 118:24

“The Sabbath--oh!--make it the sweetest, the most blessed day of the week.” —*Child Guidance*, p. 532.

4. If because of our redemption we treasure God in our life, does the Sabbath then equate with our treasured relationship with Him? Isa. 33:5, 6

“Thus the Sabbath is a token between God and His people. It is God’s holy day, given to man as a day on which to rest and reflect upon sacred things. God designed it to be observed through every age, as a perpetual covenant. His people are to regard the Sabbath as a peculiar treasure, a trust to be carefully cherished.” —*The Signs of the Times*, Feb. 1, 1910.

5. What will we be occupied with during the hours of that treasured day? Ps. 119:140, 162; Jer. 15:16

“[The] living principles [of Scripture] are as the leaves of the tree of life for the healing of the nations.” —*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 6*, p. 393.

“The Sabbath school and the meeting for worship occupy only a part of the Sabbath. The portion remaining to the family may be made the most sacred and precious season of all the Sabbath hours.

“In the minds of the children the very thought of the Sabbath should be bound up with the beauty of natural things. . . . Happy the father and mother who can teach their children God’s written word with illustrations from the open pages of the book of nature; who can gather under the green trees, in the fresh, pure air, to study the Word and to sing the praise of the Father above.” —*The Faith I Live By*, p. 274.

OPENING OF THE SABBATH

6. How will we be found as the sun sets every Friday? Lev. 23:3 (last section)

“Before the setting of the sun let the members of the family assemble to read God’s Word, to sing and pray.

“We should jealously guard the edges of the Sabbath. Remember that every moment is consecrated, holy time.” —*The Faith I Live By*, p. 34.

“Let every family of Seventh-day Adventists honor God by a strict regard for his law. The children should be taught to respect the Sabbath. On the day of preparation, clothing should be put in proper repair, shoes polished, baths

taken. Then around the family altar all should wait to welcome God's holy day, as they would watch for the coming of a dear friend." —*The Signs of the Times*, May 25, 1882 (second article).

7. With what relish is the arrival of each Sabbath day to be received in the light of its association with our loving God? Ps. 63:1-3; 84:2

"The Sabbath should be made so interesting to our families that its weekly return will be hailed with joy. In no better way can parents exalt and honor the Sabbath than by devising means to impart proper instruction to their families and interesting them in spiritual things, giving them correct views of the character of God and what He requires of us in order to perfect Christian characters and attain to eternal life. Parents, make the Sabbath a delight, that your children may look forward to it and have a welcome in their hearts for it." —*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 2*, p. 585.

"Thus parents can make the Sabbath, as it should be, the most joyful day of the week. They can lead their children to regard it as a delight, the day of days, the holy of the Lord, honorable." —*Child Guidance*, p. 537.

Sabbath Preparation

To morrow is the rest of the holy sabbath unto the LORD: bake that which ye will bake to day, and seethe that ye will seethe; and that which remaineth over lay up for you to be kept until the morning. Exodus 16:23

OBJECTIVES

- To gain an understanding of keeping the Sabbath free from distractions.
- To study the detail of preparation for unimpaired Sabbath keeping.
- To appreciate the blessing of a Sabbath well prepared for.

CLEAR OF DISTRACTIONS

1. How does God express the thought of a Sabbath free from interferences? Isa. 56:6

“Those who wish to be blest and approved of the Lord in this world, and who expect to finally be saved, and have right to the tree of life, must keep the Sabbath holy. They should pray daily for grace and wisdom to keep from polluting it in any way. Isaiah says: “Every one that keepeth the Sabbath from polluting it, and taketh hold of my covenant; even them will I bring to my holy mountain.”” —*The Youth Instructor*, Feb. 1, 1853.

2. In which way is the Sabbath polluted? Isa. 58:13

“Those who wish to be blest and approved of the Lord in this world, and who expect to finally be saved, and have right to the tree of life, must keep the Sabbath holy. They should pray daily for grace and wisdom to keep from polluting it in any way. Isaiah says: “Every one that keepeth the Sabbath from polluting it, and taketh hold of my covenant; even them will I bring to my holy mountain.””

“Dear children, are you as careful as you should be in keeping the Sabbath? You have something to do besides laying aside your work and amusements on that day. If you, on that day, lay plans of what you will do when the Sabbath is past, or talk of your work, amusements and clothes, you pollute the Sabbath. The Prophet has in another chapter told us how to keep the Sabbath from polluting it, and nothing short of doing as he has pointed out will be keeping the Sabbath holy.” —*The Youth Instructor*, Feb. 1, 1853.

DILIGENT PREPARATION

3. How is preparation for the Sabbath addressed in one word in the Sabbath commandment? Ex. 20:8

““Remember” is placed at the very first of the Fourth Commandment.”
—*Child Guidance*, p. 527.

“Unnecessary traveling is done on the Sabbath, with many other things which might be left undone. “Take heed,” saith the Lord, “to all thy ways, lest I remove My Holy Spirit because of the lax regard given to My precepts.” “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.” Bear in mind the charge to remember. Do not carelessly forget, “Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work.” In this time all the duties necessary to prepare for the Sabbath are to be done.” —*Medical Ministry*, p. 50.

4. In the light of the answer to question two, what should be seen to in order not to pollute the Sabbath? Isa. 58:13 (last phrase)

“Friday is the day of preparation. Time can then be devoted to making the necessary preparation for the Sabbath and to thinking and conversing about it. Nothing which will in the sight of Heaven be regarded as a violation of the holy Sabbath should be left unsaid or undone, to be said or done upon the Sabbath. God requires not only that we refrain from physical labor upon the Sabbath, but that the mind be disciplined to dwell upon sacred themes. The Fourth Commandment is virtually transgressed by conversing upon worldly things or by engaging in light and trifling conversation. Talking upon anything or everything which may come into the mind is speaking our own words. Every deviation from right brings us into bondage and condemnation.” —*Child Guidance*, p. 529.

“Before the Sabbath begins, the mind as well as the body should be withdrawn from worldly business.” —*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 6*, p. 356.

5. What further detail is provided in reference to remembering the Sabbath throughout the six working days? Ex. 20:9

“All through the week keep the Lord’s holy Sabbath in view, for that day is to be devoted to the service of God. It is a day when the hands are to rest from worldly employment, when the soul’s needs are to receive especial attention.

“When the Sabbath is thus remembered, the temporal will not be allowed to encroach upon the spiritual. No duty pertaining to the six working days will be left for the Sabbath. During the week our energies will not be so exhausted in temporal labor that on the day when the Lord rested and was refreshed, we shall be too weary to engage in His service.” —*Child Guidance*, pp. 527, 528.

6. Were the Hebrews informed as to their duty on the day before the Sabbath? Ex. 16:23

“On the sixth day, it was found that a double quantity [of manna] had been deposited, and the people gathered two omers for every person. When the rulers saw what they were doing, they hastened to acquaint Moses of this apparent violation of his directions; but his answer was “This is that which the Lord hath said, To-morrow is the rest of the holy sabbath unto the Lord: bake that which ye will bake to-day, and seethe that ye will seethe; and that which remaineth over lay up for you to be kept until the morning.” They did so, and found that it remained unchanged. And Moses said, “Eat that today; for today is a sabbath unto the Lord: today ye shall not find it in the field. Six days ye shall gather it; but on the seventh day, which is the sabbath, in it there shall be none.”” —*Be Like Jesus*, p. 137.

“On Friday let the preparation for the Sabbath be completed. See that all the clothing is in readiness, and that all the cooking is done. Let the boots be blacked, and the baths be taken.”

“There is another work that should receive attention on the preparation day. On this day all differences between brethren, whether in the family or in the church, should be put away.” —*Child Guidance*, p. 528.

SABBATH BLESSING

7. Does the Bible express the rich blessing available to those who have faithfully prepared themselves for the Sabbath? Isa. 58:14; Ps. 16:11

“Great blessings are enfolded in the observance of the Sabbath, and God desires that the Sabbath day shall be to us a day of joy. There was joy at the institution of the Sabbath. God looked with satisfaction upon the work of His hands. All things that He had made He pronounced “very good.” Genesis 1:31. Heaven and earth were filled with rejoicing. “The morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy.” Job 38:7. Though sin has entered the world to mar His perfect work, God still gives to us the Sabbath as a witness that One omnipotent, infinite in goodness and mercy, created all things. Our heavenly Father desires through the

observance of the Sabbath to preserve among men a knowledge of Himself. He desires that the Sabbath shall direct our minds to Him as the true and living God, and that through knowing Him we may have life and peace.” —*Counsels for the Church*, p. 261.

MEDITATION

“The Sabbath . . . is God’s time, not ours; when we trespass upon it we are stealing from God. . . . God has given us the whole of six days in which to do our work, and has reserved only one to Himself. This should be a day of blessing to us—a day when we should lay aside all our secular matters and center our thoughts upon God and heaven.” —*In Heavenly Places*, p. 152.

“I saw that we sensed and realized but little of the importance of the Sabbath, to what we yet should realize and know of its importance and glory. I saw we knew not what it was yet to ride upon the high places of the earth and to be fed with the heritage of Jacob. But when the refreshing and latter rain shall come from the presence of the Lord and the glory of His power, we shall know what it is to be fed with the heritage of Jacob and ride upon the high places of the earth. Then shall we see the Sabbath more in its importance and glory.” —*Selected Messages Book 3*, p. 388.

Thoughts, Words, and Actions

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. Isaiah 55:8

OBJECTIVES

- To establish an understanding of where words and actions arise from.
- To learn the importance of filling the mind with godly material.
- To realise that holy mindedness will render us as true Sabbath keepers.

SOURCE OF WORDS AND ACTIONS

1. How clearly does the Bible declare where our words and actions originate? Prov. 23:7

“Never forget that thoughts work out actions. Repeated actions form habits, and habits form character. Then in giving attention to the little things, there is no fear that the larger things will become stained and corrupted.” —*The Upward Look*, p. 89.

“If all would labor to repress sinful thoughts and feelings, giving them no expression in words or acts, Satan would be defeated; for he would not know how to prepare his specious temptations to meet their cases.” —*Historical Sketches of the Foreign Missions of the Seventh-day Adventists*, p. 146.

“If the thoughts are right, then as a result the words will be right; the actions will be of that character to bring gladness and comfort and rest to souls.”

—*Our High Calling*, p. 112.

2. Are there other references in Scripture by which our understanding will be enlightened? Luke 6:45; Prov. 4:23

“Let the prayer go up to God, “Create in me a clean heart” (Psalm 51:10); for a pure, cleansed soul has Christ abiding therein, and out of the abundance of the heart are the issues of life. The human will is to be yielded to Christ. Instead of passing on, closing the heart in selfishness, there is need of opening the heart to the sweet influences of the Spirit of God. Practical religion breathes its fragrance everywhere. It is a savor of life unto life.”

—*God’s Amazing Grace*, p. 295.

FILLING THE MIND

3. If our words and actions are sourced by our cherished thoughts, what then is the counsel of the Bible? 1 Pet. 1:13; 2 Cor. 10:5

“Gird up the loins of your mind, says the apostle; then control your thoughts, not allowing them to have full scope. The thoughts may be guarded and controlled by your own determined efforts. Think right thoughts, and you will perform right actions. You have, then, to guard the affections, not letting them go out and fasten upon improper objects. Jesus has purchased you with His own life; you belong to Him; therefore He is to be consulted in all things, as to how the powers of your mind and the affections of your heart shall be employed.” —*The Adventist Home*, p. 54.

4. Where is the place in our human nature that needs initial conversion or new birth? Rom. 12:2; Col. 3:1-3

“Man, fallen man, may be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that he can “prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.” How does he prove this? By the Holy Spirit taking possession of his mind, spirit, heart, and character.”

“A Christian should possess more intelligence and keener discernment than the worldling. The study of God’s Word is continually expanding the mind and strengthening the intellect. There is nothing that will so refine and elevate the character, and give vigor to every faculty, as the continual exercise of the mind to grasp and comprehend weighty and important truths.” —*Our High Calling*, p. 106.

5. What must we do with our renewed mind? Phil. 4:6-8

“Says Paul, “Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things” (Philippians 4:8). This will require earnest prayer and unceasing watchfulness. We must be aided by the abiding influence of the Holy Spirit, which will attract the mind upward, and habituate it to dwell on pure and holy things. And we must give diligent study to the Word of God. “Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to Thy Word.” “Thy Word,” says the psalmist, “have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee” (Psalm 119:9, 11).” —*Mind, Character, and Personality Vol. 1*, p. 108.

TRUE SABBATH KEEPING

6. Is there counsel as to our thoughts on the Sabbath day? Eph. 2:5, 6

“Keep his commandments holy. Do not speak your own words on the holy Sabbath, but talk of heavenly things. Talk of Jesus, his loveliness and glory, and of his undying love for you, and let your heart flow out in love and gratitude to him, who died to save you. O, get ready to meet your Lord in peace. Those who are ready will soon receive an unfading crown of life, and will dwell forever in the kingdom of God, with Christ, with angels, and with those who have been redeemed by the precious blood of Christ.” —*The Youth Instructor*, Dec. 1, 1852.

“The words and thoughts should be guarded. Those who discuss business matters and lay plans on the Sabbath, are regarded of God as though they engaged in the actual transaction of business. To keep the Sabbath holy, we should not even allow our minds to dwell upon things of a worldly character.” —*Counsels for the Church*, p. 269.

7. What must we be in order to keep the Sabbath holy? 1 Pet. 1:15, 16

“No other institution which was committed to the Jews tended so fully to distinguish them from surrounding nations as did the Sabbath. God designed that its observance should designate them as His worshippers. It was to be a token of their separation from idolatry, and their connection with the true God. But in order to keep the Sabbath holy, men must themselves be holy. Through faith they must become partakers of the

righteousness of Christ. When the command was given to Israel, “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy,” the Lord said also to them, “Ye shall be holy men unto Me.” Exodus 20:8; 22:31. Only thus could the Sabbath distinguish Israel as the worshipers of God.” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 283.

8. Can we be true Sabbath keepers if our minds have been renewed by true conversion? Ps. 27:4; 2 Cor. 6:16

“In mercy God seeks to lead the unrighteous to repentance. The obedient will delight in the law of the Lord. He puts His laws in their minds, and writes them in their hearts. Their speech will be such as is prompted by an indwelling Saviour. They have that faith that works by love and purifies the soul from all the defilement of Satan’s suggestions. Their heart yearns after God. In their conversion they love to dwell upon His mercy and goodness, for to them He is altogether lovely. They learn the language of heaven, the country of their adoption.” —*The Upward Look*, p. 297.

Not Forsaking the Assembling

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. Hebrews 10:25

OBJECTIVES

- To repeat the importance of setting aside the Sabbath for time with God.
- To let Inspiration tell us that God speaks to us by the preacher.
- To realise that Sabbath keeping includes attending Sabbath services.

SABBATH TIME WITH GOD

1. What have we learnt regarding the welcoming of the Sabbath hours every Friday at sunset? Ps. 27:4

“Family prayer receives too little interest and attention. In many cases, the morning and evening worship is little more than a mere form, a dull, monotonous repetition of set phrases in which the spirit of gratitude or the sense of need finds no expression. The Lord accepts not such service. But the petitions of a humble heart and contrite spirit he will not despise. The opening of our hearts to our Heavenly Father, the acknowledgment of our entire dependence, the expression of our wants, the homage of grateful love,—this is true prayer. When we come pleading the merits of Christ’s

blood, and trusting with implicit faith his promises, we shall secure the blessing of the Lord.” —*The Signs of the Times*, May 25, 1882.

2. In welcoming the Sabbath as a dear friend, is it a reality that we are going to spend time with the Lord of the Sabbath? Ex. 35:2 (last part excluded); Matt. 11:25

“It is the service of love that God values. When this is lacking, the mere round of ceremony is an offense to Him. So with the Sabbath. It was designed to bring men and women into communion with God; but when the mind was absorbed with wearisome rites, the object of the Sabbath was thwarted. Its mere outward observance was a mockery.” —*Be Like Jesus*, p. 146.

3. Does Scripture speak of the blessing of spending time in the presence of God? Ps. 16:11

“He who has declared that His words are spirit and life, should have their faith in strong exercise that the Lord Jesus is an honored guest in their assemblies. "Where two or three are met together in My name, there am I in their midst." If He is there, it is to enlighten and bless. Therefore as we assemble together, we all have a solemn sense of the presence of God, and know that the angels of God are in the assembly. The messengers of the gospel know by experience its truth, power and excellence. It is the hours of the Sabbath that are sacred and sanctified and holy, and every true worshiper who keeps holy the Sabbath, should claim the promise, "That ye may know I am the Lord that doth sanctify you."

“I tried to make this point as impressive as possible, that the Sabbath day was a special occasion on which the people of the Lord were celebrating the

memorial of His Creation; that on the Sabbath the Lord was in the assembly to bless and sanctify, and if they have faith in the Lord every Sabbath would be a day when His people in a special manner will be blessed in their acts of obedience in keeping the commandments of God.” —*Manuscript Releases Vol. 4, p. 347.*

AUDIENCE WITH GOD

4. How is the presence of God made real as we assemble on the Sabbath? 1 Cor. 1:21; Ezek. 3:16, 17

“When the word is spoken, you should remember, brethren, that you are listening to the voice of God through His delegated servant. Listen attentively. Sleep not for one instant, because by this slumber you may lose the very words that you need most--the very words which, if heeded, would save your feet from straying into wrong paths.” —*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 5, p. 493.*

5. What will take place in the lives of the listeners to the preaching of God’s word? Ezek. 37:1-6

“It is not the human agent that is to inspire with life. The Lord God of Israel will do that part, quickening the lifeless spiritual nature into activity. The breath of the Lord of hosts must enter into the lifeless bodies. In the judgment, when all secrets are laid bare, it will be known that the voice of God spoke through the human agent, and aroused the torpid conscience, and stirred the lifeless faculties, and moved sinners to repentance and contrition, and forsaking of sins. It will then be clearly seen that through the human agent faith in Jesus Christ was imparted to the soul, and spiritual life from heaven was breathed upon one who was dead in trespasses and sins, and he was quickened with spiritual life.” —*Ye Shall Receive Power, p. 45.*

ATTENDING SABBATH SERVICES

6. If on the Sabbath we receive God’s presence and hear His voice, does it naturally follow that we need to attend where He wishes to speak to us? Isa. 55:1-3; Luke 4:16

“Christ has said: “Where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them.” Matthew 18:20. Wherever there are as many as two or three believers, let them meet together on the Sabbath to claim the Lord’s promise.

“The little companies assembled to worship God on His holy day have a right to claim the rich blessing of Jehovah. They should believe that the Lord Jesus is an honored guest in their assemblies. Every true worshiper who keeps holy the Sabbath should claim the promise: “That ye may know that I am the Lord that doth sanctify you.” Exodus 31:13.” —*Counsels for the Church*, p. 265.

7. Did God convey the idea that each Sabbath we were to receive fresh supplies of the bread of life? 1 Chron. 9:32

“Both the manna and the showbread pointed to Christ, the living Bread, who is ever in the presence of God for us. He Himself said, “I am the living Bread which came down from heaven.” John 6:48-51. Frankincense was placed upon the loaves. When the bread was removed every Sabbath, to be replaced by fresh loaves, the frankincense was burned upon the altar as a memorial before God.” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 354.

8. How definitely does Scripture direct us to assemble and especially so in the last days? Zeph. 2:1-3; Heb. 10:25; Mal. 3:16

“The Lord has shown me that great interest should be taken by Sabbathkeepers to keep up their meetings and make them interesting.”

—*Early Writings*, p. 114.

MEDITATION

☞ For those in isolation, without a place to assemble, be encouraged by the following words:

“A sister said, “My heart is glad for this privilege. I seldom have the opportunity of meeting with such friends on God’s holy day. I am alone, yet not alone; for Jesus is with me, and angels help me in the love of the truth. I want to be purified through a knowledge of the truth. I rejoice that I have eaten the manna that will sustain me in my loneliness and great tribulation.””

—*The Review and Herald*, May 25, 1876.

“The isolated brethren and sisters should feel it their duty and privilege to be light-bearers in every sense of the word, because they are the only ones in their vicinity who see the importance of the truth. If they lead faithful, self-denying lives, laboring for others in the spirit which actuated Christ, they will have help from Heaven; angels will be at their side. Whatsoever they ask, they receive of God, because they keep his commandments and do those things that are pleasing in his sight. These will be the true Calebs in the church. They may never give a lecture or preach a sermon; yet they have their work to do, and are successful laborers in the vineyard of the Lord. They have a transforming influence. These men draw nigh to God in prayer; their closets are often visited; their supplications move the arm of God. They reach the people through his power, and receive special grace to win souls to Jesus.” —*The Review and Herald*, Dec. 18, 1883.

Dressed to Meet Our King

But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people... 1 Peter 2:9

OBJECTIVES

- To reiterate that on the Sabbath we assemble to meet with God.
- To learn from Scripture the dress code in God's presence.
- To consider how we would dress in meeting with royalty.

MEETING WITH GOD

1. Does God give any direction in reference to the assemblies of His people? Ezek. 44:16, 23, 24

“God’s people today have far greater light than had ancient Israel. They have not only the increased light that has been shining upon them, but the instruction given by God to Moses, to be given to the people. God specified the difference between the sacred and the common, and declared that this difference must be strictly observed.” —*Christ Triumphant*, p. 122.

2. As we assemble on the Sabbath, what does Inspiration remind us of? Isa. 48:12-14

“All heaven is keeping the Sabbath, but not in a listless, do-nothing way. On this day every energy of the soul should be awake, for are we not to meet with God and with Christ our Saviour? We may behold Him by faith. He is longing to refresh and bless every soul.” —*Counsels for the Church*, p. 267.

COMMON VERSUS SACRED DRESS

**3. In the light of discerning between the common and the sacred, is our dress to differ when assembling in God’s sacred presence?
Ps. 96:7-9**

“In the minds of many there are no more sacred thoughts connected with the house of God than with the most common place. Some will enter the place of worship with their hats on, in soiled, dirty clothes. Such do not realize that they are to meet with God and holy angels. There should be a radical change in this matter all through our churches. Ministers themselves need to elevate their ideas, to have finer susceptibilities in regard to it. It is a feature of the work that has been sadly neglected. Because of the irreverence in attitude, dress, and deportment, and lack of a worshipful frame of mind, God has often turned His face away from those assembled for His worship.” —*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 5*, p. 498.

4. How precisely does the “testimony of Jesus” reveal the dress code for those assembling for worship? 1 Chron. 16:27-29

“Many need instruction as to how they should appear in the assembly for worship on the Sabbath. They are not to enter the presence of God in the common clothing worn during the week. All should have a special Sabbath suit, to be worn when attending service in God’s house. While we should

not conform to worldly fashions, we are not to be indifferent in regard to our outward appearance. We are to be neat and trim, though without adornment. The children of God should be pure within and without.” —*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 6, p. 355.*

5. Did the priesthood of the Old Testament demonstrate God’s idea of the garments descriptive of the beauty of holiness? Ex. 28:2

“There should be no carelessness in dress. For Christ’s sake, whose witnesses we are, we should seek to make the best of our appearance. In the tabernacle service, God specified every detail concerning the garments of those who ministered before Him. Thus we are taught that He has a preference in regard to the dress of those who serve Him. Very specific were the directions given in regard to Aaron’s robes, for his dress was symbolic. So the dress of Christ’s followers should be symbolic. In all things we are to be representatives of Him. Our appearance in every respect should be characterized by neatness, modesty, and purity. But the word of God gives no sanction to the making of changes in apparel merely for the sake of fashion, that we may appear like the world. Christians are not to decorate the person with costly array or expensive ornaments.” —*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 6, p. 96.*

THE ROYALTY OF HEAVEN

6. In case we may conclude that holy garments only applied to those who ministered in holy office, who according to Scripture are included in a holy priesthood? 1 Pet. 2:9

“The Lord made a special covenant with ancient Israel: "Now therefore, if ye will obey My voice indeed, and keep My covenant, then ye shall be a

peculiar treasure unto Me above all people: for all the earth is Mine: and ye shall be unto Me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation." He addresses His commandment-keeping people in these last days: "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." "Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul.""
—*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 2*, p. 450.

7. If we are true believers and followers of Jesus, how does Inspiration identify us? Rom. 8:16, 17

“Baptism is a most solemn renunciation of the world. Those who are baptized in the threefold name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, at the very entrance of their Christian life declare publicly that they have forsaken the service of Satan, and have become members of the royal family, children of the heavenly King. They have obeyed the command, "Come out from among them, and be ye separate, . . . and touch not the unclean thing." And to them is fulfilled the promise, "I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be My sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty." 2 Corinthians 6:17, 18.” —*Evangelism*, p. 307.

8. Being members of the royalty of heaven, how do members of the royal family dress themselves when they engage in their official assemblies? Est. 5:1; 8:15

“Especially have I been shown that those who profess present truth should have a special care to appear before God upon the Sabbath in a manner which would show that we respect the Creator who has sanctified and placed special honors upon that day.” —*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 1*, p. 275.

Reverence In His Presence

Holy and reverend is his name. Psalm 111:9

OBJECTIVES

- To ponder upon God's holiness.
- To be filled with a sense of awe in approaching Him.
- To be conscious of His awesomeness in the place of worship.

GOD'S GLORY

1. What is God's glory? Ex. 33:18, 19; 34:5-8

"The glory of God is His character. While Moses was in the mount, earnestly interceding with God, he prayed, "I beseech thee, show me thy glory." In answer God declared, "I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the Lord before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy." The glory of God--His character--was then revealed: "The Lord passed by before him, and proclaimed, The Lord, The Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty" [...]." —*God's Amazing Grace*, p. 322.

2. How else is God's glory described in Holy Writ? Ezek. 10:4; Isa. 6:1-5

“I saw a throne, and on it sat the Father and the Son. I gazed on Jesus’ countenance and admired His lovely person. The Father’s person I could not behold, for a cloud of glorious light covered Him. I asked Jesus if His Father had a form like Himself. He said He had, but I could not behold it, for said He, “If you should once behold the glory of His person, you would cease to exist.” Before the throne I saw the Advent people--the church and the world.” —*Early Writings*, p. 54.

**3. Is there another element to God’s glory in consideration of His creative power displayed in the universe of stars and planets?
Heb. 11:3; Ps. 33:6-9**

“The people were carried away with admiration for Paul’s earnest and logical presentation of the attributes of the true God—of His creative power and the existence of His overruling providence. With earnest and fervid eloquence the apostle declared, “God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that He is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; neither is worshiped with men’s hands, as though He needed anything, seeing He giveth to all life, and breath, and all things.” The heavens were not large enough to contain God, how much less were the temples made by human hands!” —*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 238.

““The secret things belong unto the Lord our God; but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children forever.” [Deuteronomy 29:29.] Just how God accomplished the work of creation, he has never revealed to men; human science cannot search out the secrets of the Most High. His creative power is as incomprehensible as his existence.” —*Christian Education*, p. 193.

A SENSE OF AWE

4. In the light of the revelations of questions one to three, what are we admonished to do? Ps. 33:8

“In prayer we enter the audience chamber of the Most High; and we should come before Him with holy awe. The angels veil their faces in His presence. The cherubim and the bright and holy seraphim approach His throne with solemn reverence. How much more should we, finite, sinful beings, come in a reverent manner before the Lord, our Maker!” —*God’s Amazing Grace*, p. 94.

5. How only are we able to come to a true sense of the awe which should be manifest in God’s invisible presence? Dan. 10:8; Isa. 6:5

“Those who experience the sanctification of the Bible will manifest a spirit of humility. Like Moses, they have had a view of the awful majesty of holiness, and they see their own unworthiness in contrast with the purity and exalted perfection of the Infinite One. The prophet Daniel was an example of true sanctification. His long life was filled up with noble service for his Master. He was a man “greatly beloved” (Daniel 10:11) of Heaven. Yet instead of claiming to be pure and holy, this honored prophet identified himself with the really sinful of Israel as he pleaded before God in behalf of his people. . . . When at a later time the Son of God appeared, to give him instruction, Daniel says: “My comeliness was turned in me into corruption, and I retained no strength” (verse 8).” —*Be Like Jesus*, p. 370.

THE PLACE OF WORSHIP

6. Affected by God’s glory and greatness, how should be our deportment when entering and worshipping in the place of Sabbath services? Lev. 19:30; Ps. 89:7

“Another precious grace that should be carefully cherished is reverence. True reverence for God is inspired by a sense of His infinite greatness and a realization of His presence. With this sense of the Unseen the heart of every child should be deeply impressed. The hour and place of prayer and the services of public worship the child should be taught to regard as sacred because God is there. And as reverence is manifested in attitude and demeanor, the feeling that inspires it will be deepened.” —*My Life Today*, p. 281.

7. How emphatically does the Spirit of Prophecy admonish us in these times regarding the lax disposition and lack of reverence for the house of God?

“It is too true that reverence for the house of God has become almost extinct. Sacred things and places are not discerned; the holy and exalted are not appreciated. Is there not a cause for the want of fervent piety in our families? Is it not because the high standard of religion is left to trail in the dust? God gave rules of order, perfect and exact, to His ancient people. Has His character changed? Is He not the great and mighty God who rules in the heaven of heavens? Would it not be well for us often to read the directions given by God Himself to the Hebrews, that we who have the light of the glorious truth shining upon us may imitate their reverence for the house of

God? We have abundant reason to maintain a fervent, devoted spirit in the worship of God. We have reason even to be more thoughtful and reverential in our worship than had the Jews. But an enemy has been at work to destroy our faith in the sacredness of Christian worship.” —*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 5*, p. 495.

8. When it comes to our participation in the verbal expressions of worship, what further admonition is given? Eccl. 5:1, 2

“Humility and reverence should characterize the deportment of all who come into the presence of God. In the name of Jesus we may come before Him with confidence, but we must not approach Him with the boldness of presumption, as though He were on a level with ourselves. There are those who address the great and all-powerful and holy God, who dwelleth in light unapproachable, as they would address an equal, or even an inferior. There are those who conduct themselves in His house as they would not presume to do in the audience chamber of an earthly ruler. These should remember that they are in His sight whom seraphim adore, before whom angels veil their faces. God is greatly to be revered; all who truly realize His presence will bow in humility before Him.” —*My Life Today*, p. 281.

Our Children on the Sabbath

Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6

OBJECTIVES

- To understand how to make the Sabbath attractive to children.
- To see the importance of keeping children under parental supervision.
- To realise the parents' responsibility for Sabbath desecration by their children.

SABBATH ATTRACTIVENESS

1. Does Scripture prompt to joy and gladness on the day God has set aside to spend with Him? Ps. 118:24; 100:1-4

“Great blessings are enfolded in the observance of the Sabbath, and God desires that the Sabbath day shall be to us a day of joy. There was joy at the institution of the Sabbath. God looked with satisfaction upon the work of His hands. All things that He had made He pronounced “very good.” Genesis 1:31. Heaven and earth were filled with rejoicing. “The morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy.” Job 38:7. Though sin has entered the world to mar His perfect work, God still gives to us the Sabbath as a witness that One omnipotent, infinite in goodness and mercy, created all things. Our heavenly Father desires through the observance of the Sabbath to preserve among men a knowledge of Himself.

He desires that the Sabbath shall direct our minds to Him as the true and living God, and that through knowing Him we may have life and peace.”
—*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 6, p. 349.*

2. In that the Sabbath was to be a day of rejoicing and gladness, is it incumbent upon parents to ensure that it is just that for their children? Ps. 149:1-5

“The Sabbath--oh! make it the sweetest, the most blessed day of the whole week. . . . Parents can and should give attention to their children, reading to them the most attractive portions of Bible history, educating them to reverence the Sabbath day, keeping it according to the commandment. . . . They can make the Sabbath a delight if they will take the proper course. The children can be interested in good reading or in conversation about the salvation of their souls.

“During a portion of the day all should have an opportunity to be out of doors. . . . Let their young minds be associated with God in the beautiful scenery of nature, let their attention be called to the tokens of His love to man in His created works. . . . As they view the beautiful things which He has created for the happiness of man, they will be led to regard Him as a tender, loving Father. . . . As the character of God puts on the aspect of love, benevolence, beauty, and attraction, they are drawn to love Him.” —*My Life Today*, p. 287.

3. By what other words does Inspiration associate the Sabbath with delight and true godly joy? Isa. 58:13, 14

“We are not to teach our children that they must not be happy on the Sabbath, that it is wrong to walk out-of-doors. Oh, no. Christ led His

disciples out by the lakeside on the Sabbath day and taught them. His sermons on the Sabbath were not always preached within enclosed walls.”

“How can children receive a more correct knowledge of God, and their minds be better impressed, than in spending a portion of their time out-of-doors, not in play, but in company with their parents? Let their young minds be associated with God in the beautiful scenery of nature; let their attention be called to the tokens of His love to man in His created works, and they will be attracted and interested. They will not be in danger of associating the character of God with everything that is stern and severe; but as they view the beautiful things which He has created for the happiness of man, they will be led to regard Him as a tender, loving Father. They will see that His prohibitions and injunctions are not made merely to show His power and authority, but that He has the happiness of His children in view. As the character of God puts on the aspect of love, benevolence, beauty, and attraction, they are drawn to love Him. You can direct their minds to the lovely birds making the air musical with their happy songs, to the spires of grass and the gloriously tinted flowers in their perfection perfuming the air. All these proclaim the love and skill of the heavenly Artist and show forth the glory of God.” —*Child Guidance*, pp. 533, 534.

PARENTAL SUPERVISION

4. What counsel is given in God’s word in reference to keeping children under unbroken surveillance? Prov. 31:10, 27

“You may now cultivate the home-making qualities with good effect, for your children are of the age when they most need a mother. The restless spirit naturally inclines to mischief; the active mind, if left unoccupied with better things will give heed to that which Satan may suggest. The children need the watchful eye of the mother. They need to be instructed, to be guided in safe paths, to be kept from vice, to be won by kindness, and be confirmed in well doing, by diligent training.” —*Manuscript Releases Vol. 8*, p. 434.

“Before visitors, before every other consideration, your children should come first. . . . The labor due your child during its early years will admit of no neglect. There is no time in its life when the rule should be forgotten.

“Do not send them out-of-doors that you may entertain your visitors, but teach them to be quiet and respectful in the presence of visitors.”

—*The Adventist Home*, p. 267.

5. Is there a special counsel given to be watchful over the children during the Sabbath hours? Prov. 29:15

“The Sabbath school and the meeting for worship occupy only a part of the Sabbath. The portion remaining to the family may be made the most sacred and precious season of all the Sabbath hours. Much of this time parents should spend with their children. In many families the younger children are left to themselves to find entertainment as best they can. Left alone, the children soon become restless and begin to play or engage in some kind of mischief. Thus the Sabbath has to them no sacred significance.” —*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 6*, p. 358.

PARENT-CHILD RESPONSIBILITY

**6. How are parents to occupy their children on the Sabbath day?
Deut. 11:19, 20**

“The Sabbath school and the meeting for worship occupy only a part of the Sabbath. The portion remaining to the family may be made the most sacred and precious season of all the Sabbath hours. Much of this time parents should spend with their children.” —*Child Guidance*, p. 532.

“In pleasant weather let parents walk with their children in the fields and groves. Amid the beautiful things of nature tell them the reason for the institution of the Sabbath. Describe to them God’s great work of creation. Tell them that when the earth came from His hand, it was holy and beautiful. Every flower, every shrub, every tree, answered the purpose of its Creator. Everything upon which the eye rested was lovely and filled the mind with thoughts of the love of God. Every sound was music in harmony with the voice of God. Show that it was sin which marred God’s perfect work; that thorns and thistles, sorrow and pain and death, are all the result of disobedience to God. Bid them see how the earth, though marred with the curse of sin, still reveals God’s goodness. The green fields, the lofty trees, the glad sunshine, the clouds, the dew, the solemn stillness of the night, the glory of the starry heavens, and the moon in its beauty all bear witness of the Creator. Not a drop of rain falls, not a ray of light is shed on our unthankful world, but it testifies to the forbearance and love of God.

“Tell them of the way of salvation; how “God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” John 3:16. Let the sweet story of Bethlehem be repeated. Present before the children Jesus, as a child obedient to His parents, as a youth faithful and industrious, helping to support the family. Thus you can teach them that the Saviour knows the trials, perplexities, and temptations, the hopes and joys, of the young, and that He can give them sympathy and help. From time to time read with them the interesting stories in Bible history. Question as to what they have learned in the Sabbath school, and study with them the next Sabbath’s lesson.”
—*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 6, p. 358.*

7. If the children are left to themselves while the parents converse with other adults on the Sabbath, and the children do things not meant to be done on the Sabbath, who is equally responsible for Sabbath breaking? Prov. 29:15 (last part)

“I have found that on the Sabbath day many are indifferent and do not know where their children are or what they are doing.

“Parents, above everything take care of your children upon the Sabbath. Do not suffer them to violate God’s holy day by playing in the house or out-of-doors. You may just as well break the Sabbath yourselves as to let your children do it, and when you suffer your children to wander about and suffer them to play upon the Sabbath, God looks upon you as Sabbathbreakers.”
—*Child Guidance*, p. 533.

MEDITATION

“Teach the children to see Christ in nature. Take them out into the open air, under the noble trees, into the garden; and in all the wonderful works of creation teach them to see an expression of His love. Teach them that He made the laws which govern all living things, that He has made laws for us, and that these laws are for our happiness and joy. Do not weary them with long prayers and tedious exhortations, but through nature’s object lessons teach them obedience to the law of God.” —*Child Guidance*, p. 534.

Designed For Worship

...from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD. Isaiah 66:23

OBJECTIVES

- To let the Bible declare who alone is worthy of worship.
- To ascertain the reason God alone can be worshipped.
- To realise that the Sabbath embodies the very reason for worship.

WORTHY OF WORSHIP

- 1. What did the angel communicating with John the Revelator say when the apostle fell at his feet to worship him? Rev. 19:10; Acts 10:25, 26**

“The angel then showed John the heavenly city with all its splendor and dazzling glory. John was enraptured and overwhelmed with the glory of the city. He did not bear in mind his former reproof from the angel, but again fell to worship before the feet of the angel, who again gave the gentle reproof, See thou do it not; for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them that keep the sayings of this book; worship God.”
—*The Truth About Angels*, p. 242.

“Peter shrank with horror from this act of the centurion, and lifted him to his feet, saying, "Stand up; I myself also am a man." He then commenced to converse with him familiarly, in order to remove the sense of awe and extreme reverence with which the centurion regarded him.” —*The Story of Redemption*, p. 287.

2. Why did the angel and Peter refuse to accept the act of worship toward them? Matt. 4:9, 10

“Satan claims the world as his kingdom, and counts as his subjects those who unite with him in opposition to the God of heaven, because they have chosen him as their ruler. He is unable to dethrone Jehovah; but he exalts himself as the ruler of this world, and plants his throne between the soul who would worship toward heaven, and the divine being Jehovah, who alone is worthy of all honor, glory, and praise, to whom alone belong all power, dominion, and might. Satan arranges his plans in such a way as to intercept the worship due to God, and to transfer to himself the adoration due to God alone.” —*The Signs of the Times*, June 13, 1895.

REASON FOR WORSHIP

3. Why is God the only one worthy of worship? Isa. 40:25-29

“The duty to worship God is based upon the fact that He is the Creator and that to Him all other beings owe their existence. And wherever, in the Bible, His claim to reverence and worship, above the gods of the heathen, is presented, there is cited the evidence of His creative power. "All the gods of the nations are idols: but the Lord made the heavens." Psalm 96:5. "To whom then will ye liken Me, or shall I be equal? saith the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things." "Thus saith the Lord that created the heavens; God Himself that formed the earth and made it: . . . I am the Lord; and there is none else." Isaiah 40:25, 26; 45:18. Says the psalmist: "Know ye that the Lord He is God: it is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves." "O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the Lord our Maker." Psalm 100:3; 95:6.

And the holy beings who worship God in heaven state, as the reason why their homage is due to Him: "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for Thou hast created all things." Revelation 4:11."
—*The Great Controversy*, p. 436.

4. Besides the fact that God is our Creator, what other reason do we find as the motive to worship God? Phil. 2:8-11; Isa. 49:7, 8

"We may rejoice in every condition of life, and triumph under all circumstances, because the Son of God came down from heaven and submitted to bear our infirmities, and to endure sacrifice and death in order to give to us immortal life. He will ever bear the marks of His earthly humiliation in man's behalf. While the redeemed host and the pure angelic throng shall do Him honor and worship Him, He will carry the marks of one that has been slain. The more fully we appreciate the infinite sacrifice made in our behalf by a sin-atonement Saviour, the more closely do we come into harmony with heaven." —*Confrontation*, p. 92.

SABBATH AND WORSHIP

5. Because Jesus was both our Creator and Redeemer and also the Lord of the Sabbath, is the Sabbath therefore directly connected with our worship of Him? Isa. 66:23

"It was by Christ that the worlds were made. By Christ the law was proclaimed from Sinai. Hence, Christ is, in the fullest sense, as he declares himself to be, "Lord of the Sabbath." He made the day sacred to himself, on which to receive the worship of angels and of men." —*The Signs of the Times*, Sept. 14, 1882.

6. How clearly does Inspiration associate the Sabbath with the true worship of God the Creator and Redeemer? Ex. 20:10, 11; 31:13

“The importance of the Sabbath as the memorial of creation is that it keeps ever present the true reason why worship is due to God”—because He is the Creator, and we are His creatures. “The Sabbath therefore lies at the very foundation of divine worship, for it teaches this great truth in the most impressive manner, and no other institution does this. The true ground of divine worship, not of that on the seventh day merely, but of all worship, is found in the distinction between the Creator and His creatures. This great fact can never become obsolete, and must never be forgotten.”—J. N. Andrews, *History of the Sabbath*, chapter 27. It was to keep this truth ever before the minds of men, that God instituted the Sabbath in Eden; and so long as the fact that He is our Creator continues to be a reason why we should worship Him, so long the Sabbath will continue as its sign and memorial.”
—*The Great Controversy*, p. 437.

7. What enlargements can we find regarding the connection of worship with the keeping of the Sabbath? Isa. 56:6, 7

“The Sabbath is a token between God and His people. It is a holy day, given by the Creator to us as a day upon which to rest, and reflect upon sacred things. God designed it to be observed through every age as a perpetual covenant.” —*Christ Triumphant*, p. 110.

“God made man in His own image and then gave him an example of observing the seventh day, which He sanctified and made holy. He designed that upon that day man should worship Him and engage in no secular pursuits. No one who disregards the fourth commandment, after

becoming enlightened concerning the claims of the Sabbath, can be held guiltless in the sight of God.” —*Lift Him Up*, p. 138.

“The Sabbath was made for man. God designed that upon that day men should engage in no secular pursuits, but should worship him.”
—*The Watchman*, June 23, 1908.

Seeing, Yet Observing Not

Seeing many things, but thou observest not; opening the ears, but he heareth not. Isaiah 42:20

OBJECTIVES

- To consider an important skill God's children need amidst negative influences.
- To realise that interferences on the Sabbath are likely.
- To know how to deal with Sabbath-breaking influences.

LIVING AMIDST IMPERFECTIONS

1. What did Jesus say in reference to living in this sinful world?

John 17:14-16

“Now, shall professed Christians refuse to associate with the unconverted, and seek to have no communication with them? No, they are to be with them, in the world and not of the world, but not to partake of their ways, not to be impressed by them, not to have a heart open to their customs and practices. Their associations are to be for the purpose of drawing others to Christ.” —*Selected Messages Book 3*, p. 231.

2. How does the Bible describe the manner by which the servant of God can live amidst the world, yet not be tainted by it? Isa. 42:19, 20

“What kind of blindness is this? It is a blindness that will not allow our eyes to contemplate evil. It will not allow our eyes to rest upon iniquity. It will not grasp the things of sight and lose eternity out of its reckoning. . . . We want to see aright, we want to see as God sees; for Satan is constantly trying to convert the things our eyes rest upon in order that we may see through his medium.” —*Our High Calling*, p. 334.

**3. In what other words does Jesus show that what we permit our eyes to rest upon and to dwell upon affects our spiritual life?
Matt. 6:22, 23**

“It makes every difference what we give our minds and souls to feed upon. We can let our minds dwell upon romance and castle-building, and what will it do for us? It will ruin us, soul and body. . . . We want to have that power that will enable us to close our eyes to scenes that are not elevating, that are not ennobling, that will not purify and refine us; and to keep our ears closed to everything that is forbidden in God’s Word. He forbids us to imagine evil, to speak evil, and even to think evil. . . .

“I see in Jesus everything that is lovely, everything that is holy, everything that is uplifting and pure. Then why should I want to open my eyes wide to see everything that is disagreeable? By beholding we become changed. Let us look to Jesus and consider the loveliness of His character, and by beholding we shall become changed into the same likeness.” —*Our High Calling*, p. 334.

SABBATH INTERFERENCES

4. As we seek to keep the Sabbath in spirit and in truth, will we meet with distracting influences and circumstances? Mark 4:19

“Dear children, are you as careful as you should be in keeping the Sabbath? You have something to do besides laying aside your work and amusements on that day. If you, on that day, lay plans of what you will do when the Sabbath is past, or talk of your work, amusements and clothes, you pollute the Sabbath. The Prophet has in another chapter told us how to keep the Sabbath from polluting it, and nothing short of doing as he has pointed out will be keeping the Sabbath holy.” —*The Youth Instructor*, Feb. 1, 1853.

**5. When confronted by these influences and circumstances on the Sabbath day, does Inspiration address our difficulty?
Matt. 24:12, 13**

“In this perilous period, when we see universal contempt placed upon the law of God, when the world is choosing between the holy Sabbath of the fourth commandment and the spurious sabbath, shall we say one word that will detract from the words of the Lord of the Sabbath? The Lord God of heaven knew what a deadening influence the abounding iniquity would have upon the chosen believers, what a paralyzing power it would be against piety and true loyalty to God. In giving us the statement of the occurrences which would mark the approach of the second advent of our Lord and Saviour, Christ says, "Because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold." We see this fulfilled to the letter. The experience of many is becoming dwarfed and sickly and wonderfully deformed. Everything that surrounds us creates an atmosphere that is saturated with unrighteousness. Even under the most faithful surroundings, it is difficult to hold fast the Christian profession of faith unto the end, to stand decidedly and earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints. But it is most difficult to keep true and loyal to God's holy commandments, when there are few in number to help and encourage one another, and when many of these are sickly and ready to die because they do not honor God by keeping his commandments truly and loyally.” —*The Review and Herald*, June 8, 1897.

CONQUERING INTERFERENCES

6. Being surrounded with influences of this world, what is the counsel which, if heeded, will lead us not to pollute the Sabbath? 1 John 2:15-17

“At the very beginning of the fourth commandment the Lord said, “Remember.” He knew that amid the multitude of cares and perplexities man would be tempted to excuse himself from meeting the full requirement of the law, or would forget its sacred importance. Therefore He said: “Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.”

“All through the week we are to have the Sabbath in mind and be making preparation to keep it according to the commandment.”

“Before the setting of the sun let all secular work be laid aside and all secular papers be put out of sight. Parents, explain your work and its purpose to your children, and let them share in your preparation to keep the Sabbath according to the commandment.

“There is another work that should receive attention on the preparation day. On this day all differences between brethren, whether in the family or in the church, should be put away. Let all bitterness and wrath and malice be expelled from the soul. In a humble spirit, “confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another.”” —*The Faith I Live By*, p. 34.

7. How valuable is the counsel contained in the key text, if we want to conquer Sabbath-breaking influences? 2 Cor. 4:18; Col. 3:1, 2

“Sabbath commenced. We tried to call our thoughts from the things around us to sacred things.” —*Manuscript Releases Vol. 3*, p. 144.

“Gird up the loins of your mind, says the apostle; then control your thoughts, not allowing them to have full scope. The thoughts may be guarded and controlled by your own determined efforts. Think right thoughts, and you will perform right actions. You have, then, to guard the affections, not letting them go out and fasten upon improper objects. Jesus has purchased you with His own life; you belong to Him; therefore He is to be consulted in all things, as to how the powers of your mind and the affections of your heart shall be employed.” —*The Adventist Home*, p. 54.

Burden Free

Thus saith the LORD; Take heed to yourselves, and bear no burden on the sabbath day, nor bring it in by the gates of Jerusalem. Jeremiah 17:21

OBJECTIVES

- To reflect upon Christ's words of invitation to come into His rest.
- To identify the Sabbath with Christ's invitation.
- To expand upon the meaning of no burden bearing on the Sabbath.

"COME UNTO ME AND REST"

1. With what words does Jesus bring comfort to souls burdened by restless labour? Matt. 11:28-30

"We should not indulge in a solicitude that only frets and wears us, but does not help us to bear trials. . . . He invites the weary and care-laden, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Lay off the yoke of anxiety and worldly care that you have placed on your own neck, and "take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls." Matthew 11:28, 29. We may find rest and peace in God." —*The Faith I Live By*, p. 63.

2. How else does Jesus address the burdened soul? John 14:1, 27

“Jesus says, “My peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” The peace spoken of by the great Teacher is larger and fuller than we have imagined. Christ is ready to do large things for us, to restore our natures by making us partakers of His divine nature. He waits to link our hearts with His heart of infinite love, in order that we may be fully reconciled to God; but it is our privilege to understand that God loves us as He loves His Son. When we believe in Christ as our personal Saviour, the peace of Christ is ours. The reconciliation provided for us in the atonement of Christ is the foundation of our peace; but gloomy feelings are no evidence that the promises of God are of no effect. You look at your feelings, and because your outlook is not all brightness, you begin to draw more closely the garment of heaviness about your soul. You look within yourself, and think that God is forsaking you. You are to look to Christ. In me, Christ says, ye shall have peace. Entering into communion with our Saviour, we enter the region of peace.” —*Lift Him Up*, p. 332.

CONNECTION WITH SABBATH REST

3. Are the words of Christ’s invitation an integral part of the Sabbath rest? Lev. 23:3

“To all who receive the Sabbath as a sign of Christ’s creative and redeeming power, it will be a delight. Seeing Christ in it, they delight themselves in Him. The Sabbath points them to the works of creation as an evidence of His mighty power in redemption. While it calls to mind the lost peace of Eden, it tells of peace restored through the Saviour. And every object in nature repeats His invitation, “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” Matthew 11:28.” —*The Faith I Live By*, p. 33.

4. How well does Scripture associate the rest God promises to troubled souls with the rest in Sabbath keeping? Heb. 4:1-4, 9, 10

“As the Sabbath was the sign that distinguished Israel when they came out of Egypt to enter the earthly Canaan, so it is the sign that now distinguishes God’s people as they come out from the world to enter the heavenly rest.”

—*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 6*, p. 349.

CARRY NO BURDEN

5. Reflecting on Hebrews 4:1, the danger of failing to benefit from God’s promised rest, what is the admonition in reference to letting go of our burdens? Ps. 55:22; 1 Pet. 5:7

“Keep your wants, your joys, your sorrows, your cares, and your fears, before God. You cannot burden Him; you cannot weary Him. He who numbers the hairs of your head is not indifferent to the wants of His children. . . . Take to Him everything that perplexes the mind. Nothing is too great for Him to bear, for He holds up worlds, He rules over all the affairs of the universe. Nothing that in any way concerns our peace is too small for Him to notice. There is no chapter in our experience too dark for Him to read; there is no perplexity too difficult for Him to unravel. No calamity can befall the least of His children, no anxiety harass the soul, no joy cheer, no sincere prayer escape the lips, of which our heavenly Father is unobservant, or in which He takes no immediate interest. "He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds" (Psalm 147:3). The relations between God and each soul are as distinct and full as though there

were not another soul upon earth to share His watchcare, not another soul for whom He gave His beloved Son.” —*God’s Amazing Grace*, p. 116.

6. What sad danger is expressed in Hebrews 4:1 which Inspiration appeals to us to deal with? Isa. 32:17; 30:15

“How can we remain in doubt, questioning whether Jesus loves us, sinful though we be and compassed with infirmities? He gave Himself for us that He might redeem us from all iniquity and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. He came to our world in the humble guise of a man, that He might become acquainted with the griefs and temptations that beset man’s pathway, and that He might know how to help the weary with His offer of rest and peace. But thousands upon thousands refuse His assistance and only cling more firmly to their burden of care. He comes to the afflicted, and offers to soothe their grief and heal their sorrow. . . . To the disappointed, the unbelieving, and the unhappy He offers contentment, while pointing to mansions that He is preparing for them. . . . Jesus, our precious Saviour, should be first in our thoughts and affections, and we should trust Him with entire confidence.” —*That I May Know Him*, p. 225.

7. If the provision of rest from our burdens is provided by Jesus, and the Sabbath day is an integral part of that rest, does it follow that the requirement to bear no physical burdens on the Sabbath includes bearing no spiritual burdens? Jer. 17:21, 22

“In order to keep the Sabbath holy, it is not necessary that we enclose ourselves in walls, shut away from the beautiful scenes of nature and from the free, invigorating air of heaven. We should in no case allow burdens and business transactions to divert our minds upon the Sabbath of the Lord,

which He has sanctified. We should not allow our minds to dwell upon things of a worldly character even. [...] The Sabbath was made for man, to be a blessing to him by calling his mind from secular labor to contemplate the goodness and glory of God. It is necessary that the people of God assemble to talk of Him, to interchange thoughts and ideas in regard to the truths contained in His word, and to devote a portion of time to appropriate prayer. But these seasons, even upon the Sabbath, should not be made tedious by their length and lack of interest.” —*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 2*, p. 583.

Foretaste of Heaven

Even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer. Isaiah 56:7

OBJECTIVES

- To understand God's meaning when He speaks of His holy mountain and house of prayer.
- To see the association of Sabbath keeping with God's mountain.
- To appreciate the joy integral with the Sabbath and heaven.

GOD'S HOLY MOUNTAIN

1. How clearly does Scripture identify God's holy mountain? Isa. 66:20; Zech. 8:3

“This promise of blessing should have met fulfillment in large measure during the centuries following the return of the Israelites from the lands of their captivity. It was God's design that the whole earth be prepared for the first advent of Christ, even as today the way is preparing for His second coming. At the end of the years of humiliating exile, God graciously gave to His people Israel, through Zechariah, the assurance: “I am returned unto Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and Jerusalem shall be called a city of truth; and the mountain of the Lord of hosts the holy mountain.” And of His people He said, “Behold, . . . I will be their God, in truth and in righteousness.” Zechariah 8:3, 7, 8.

“These promises were conditional on obedience. The sins that had characterized the Israelites prior to the captivity, were not to be repeated.”
—*Prophets and Kings*, pp. 703, 704.

2. What was it that disqualified the earthly city of Jerusalem as God’s holy mountain? Matt. 23:37, 38

“The city of Jerusalem is no longer a sacred place. The curse of God is upon it because of the rejection and crucifixion of Christ. A dark blot of guilt rests upon it, and never again will it be a sacred place until it has been cleansed by the purifying fires of heaven. At the time when this sin-cursed earth is purified from every stain of sin, Christ will again stand upon the Mount of Olives. As His feet rest upon it, it will part asunder, and become a great plain, prepared for the city of God.” —*The Review and Herald*, July 30, 1901.

3. Where is God’s holy mountain located which we are to come to due to the Jewish demise? Heb. 12:22, 23

GOD’S HOUSE OF PRAYER

4. How did Jesus articulate the gathering of Jews and Gentiles into His Sabbath-keeping house of prayer? Isa. 56:6-8; 49:6; John 10:16

“Many convicted and converted will bow in humility before the Lord, making an unreserved consecration of themselves to Him. The message is to go to all parts of the world. “Look unto me and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is none else. I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, that unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear.” The words inscribed on the Lord’s temple harmonize with his unlimited invitation of mercy. “My house shall be called a house of prayer for all people.” It shall proclaim that I am the living God, sit upon my throne as ruler, giving audience to the world. And what is the response?--“Let all the people praise thee, O God, let all the people praise thee, and let the whole earth be filled with thy glory.”” —*Spalding and Magan Collection*, p. 369.

5. For those who keep the Sabbath correctly here on earth, is there an elevated experience available to them? Isa. 58:13, 14

“I saw that we sensed and realized but little of the importance of the Sabbath, to what we yet should realize and know of its importance and glory. I saw we knew not what it was yet to ride upon the high places of the earth and to be fed with the heritage of Jacob. But when the refreshing and latter rain shall come from the presence of the Lord and the glory of His power we shall know what it is to be fed with the heritage of Jacob and ride upon the high places of the earth. Then shall we see the Sabbath more in its importance and glory. But we shall not see it in all its glory and importance until the covenant of peace is made with us at the voice of God, and the pearly gates of the New Jerusalem are thrown open and swing back on their glittering hinges and the glad and joyful voice of the lovely Jesus is heard richer than any music that ever fell on mortal ear bidding us enter. [I saw] that we had a perfect right in the city for we had kept the commandments of God, and heaven, sweet heaven is our home, for we have kept the commandments of God.” —*Selected Messages Book 3*, p. 260.

HEAVEN'S FORETASTE

- 6. Having already seen that the rest offered to the soul by Jesus and the rest embodied in Sabbath keeping are synonymous, are the rich feasts of love available from both associated with the joys of heaven? Song 2:3, 4**

“Rest yourself wholly in the hands of Jesus. Contemplate His great love, and while you meditate upon His self-denial, His infinite sacrifice made in our behalf in order that we should believe in Him, your heart will be filled with holy joy, calm peace, and indescribable love. As we talk of Jesus, as we call upon Him in prayer, our confidence that He is our personal, loving Saviour will strengthen, and His character will appear more and more lovely. . . . We may enjoy rich feasts of love, and as we fully believe that we are His by adoption, we may have a foretaste of heaven. Wait upon the Lord in faith. The Lord draws out the soul in prayer, and gives us to feel His precious love. We have a nearness to Him, and can hold sweet communion with Him. We obtain distinct views of His tenderness and compassion, and our hearts are broken and melted with contemplation of the love that is given to us. We feel indeed an abiding Christ in the soul. . . . Our peace is like a river, wave after wave of glory rolls into the heart, and indeed we sup with Jesus and He with us. We have a realizing sense of the love of God, and we rest in His love. No language can describe it, it is beyond knowledge. We are one with Christ, our life is hid with Christ in God. We have the assurance that when He who is our life shall appear, then shall we also appear with Him in glory. With strong confidence, we can call God our Father. Whether we live or die, we are the Lord’s. His Spirit makes us like Jesus Christ in temper, and disposition, and we represent Christ to others. When Christ is abiding in the soul the fact cannot be hid; for He is like a well of water springing up into everlasting life. We can but represent the likeness of Christ in our character, and our words, our deportment, produces in others a deep, abiding, increasing love

for Jesus, and we make manifest . . . that we are conformed to the image of Jesus Christ.” —*The Youth Instructor*, Apr. 15, 1897.

7. How realistically is Sabbath keeping on earth transferred to Sabbath keeping in the heavenly Jerusalem? Isa. 66:22, 23; 56:7

“I was shown that the law of God would stand fast forever, and exist in the new earth to all eternity. At the creation, when the foundations of the earth were laid, the sons of God looked with admiration upon the work of the Creator, and all the heavenly host shouted for joy. It was then that the foundation of the Sabbath was laid. At the close of the six days of creation, God rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had made; and He blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because that in it He had rested from all His work. The Sabbath was instituted in Eden before the fall, and was observed by Adam and Eve, and all the heavenly host. God rested on the seventh day, and blessed and hallowed it. I saw that the Sabbath never will be done away; but that the redeemed saints, and all the angelic host, will observe it in honor of the great Creator to all eternity.”
—*Early Writings*, p. 217.

“Now Jesus rested from the work of redemption; and though there was grief among those who loved Him on earth, yet there was joy in heaven. Glorious to the eyes of heavenly beings was the promise of the future. . . . With this scene the day upon which Jesus rested is forever linked. For "his work is perfect" (Deuteronomy 32:4); and "whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever" (Ecclesiastes 3:14). When there shall be a "restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began" (Acts 3:21), the creation Sabbath, the day on which Jesus lay at rest in Joseph's tomb, will still be a day of rest and rejoicing. Heaven and earth will unite in praise, as "from one sabbath to another" (Isaiah 66:23) the nations of the saved shall bow in joyful worship to God and the Lamb.”
—*Be Like Jesus*, p. 162.

MEDITATION

“In the Bible the inheritance of the saved is called "a country." Hebrews 11:14-16. There the heavenly Shepherd leads His flock to fountains of living waters. The tree of life yields its fruit every month, and the leaves of the tree are for the service of the nations. There are ever-flowing streams, clear as crystal, and beside them waving trees cast their shadows upon the paths prepared for the ransomed of the Lord. There the wide-spreading plains swell into hills of beauty, and the mountains of God rear their lofty summits. On those peaceful plains, beside those living streams, God's people, so long pilgrims and wanderers, shall find a home.” —*Heaven*, p. 143.