

SABBATH SCHOOL LESSONS



ADVENT PILGRIMS FELLOWSHIP

RELATIONSHIPS

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WEBSITE: www.sabbathsermons.com

EMAIL: sabbathsermonsaustralia@gmail.com

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SECTION 1

**GOD OF
HARMONIOUS
RELATIONSHIPS**

Introduction

TO ALL SABBATH SCHOOL STUDENTS ASSOCIATED WITH
THE ADVENT PILGRIMS FELLOWSHIP:

WHO IS GOD? What are His purposes for existence? Why did He create the universe and the life of its inhabitants?

These questions call for intelligent answers, and God has not left us wondering in ignorance. In the Bible are given answers for those who are willing to search for them. Via Jesus, God tells us that it is His will for us to know Him and the answers to these questions:

“And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.” John 17:3.

The Apostle John reinforces this in the following words:

“And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.” 1 John 5:20.

Under divine inspiration, Apostle Paul informs us that the deep things of God are revealed to us by His Spirit.

“But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. ... Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.”
1 Corinthians 2:10, 12.

This the Spirit of Prophecy qualifies even further:

“Only under the direction of the Omniscient One shall we, in the study of His works, be enabled to think His thoughts after Him.”
—*Education*, p. 134.

It is indeed a privilege for us to enter into the deep things of God, and find the answers to these questions posed. Hence, it is the purpose of this

Sabbath school lesson to search inspiration for the answers that will generate eternal life within us.

May all who study this lesson find such powerful revelations from God to verily fill the soul with such light that will illuminate all the relationships of life.

The Godhead

*And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.
Genesis 1:26*

OBJECTIVES

- To gain a Scriptural description of the Godhead.
- To behold their relationship from eternity.
- To appreciate their life-giving qualities that prompted them to create other relationships.

REVELATIONS OF THE GODHEAD

1. How does Scripture reveal that the title “God” is given to more than one being? Gen. 1:26; Isa. 48:12, 13, 16, 17

“There are three living persons of the heavenly trio; in the name of these three great powers --the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit--those who receive Christ by living faith are baptized, and these powers will co-operate with the obedient subjects of heaven in their efforts to live the new life in Christ.” —*Evangelism*, p. 615.

2. How is this heavenly trio described in the Bible? Acts 17:29; Rom. 1:19, 20

“The Father is all the fullness of the Godhead bodily, and is invisible to mortal sight.

“The Son is all the fullness of the Godhead manifested. The Word of God declares Him to be “the express image of His person.””

“The Comforter that Christ promised to send after He ascended to heaven, is the Spirit in all the fullness of the Godhead...” —*Evangelism*, pp. 614, 615.

AN ETERNAL RELATIONSHIP

3. What is revealed concerning the interactive relationship between these three persons? 1 Cor. 2:10, 11; John 10:30; 1 John 5:7

“It is the fulfillment of the covenant God has made with those who bind themselves up with Him, to stand with Him, His Son, and His Spirit in holy fellowship.” —*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 7*, p. 908.

4. How far back can this relationship be traced? Ps. 90:2; Prov. 8:22, 23; Heb. 9:14 (middle part)

“The eternal Godhead--the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost--is involved in the action required to make assurance to the human agent, confederating the heavenly powers with the human.” —*The Upward Look*, p. 148.

CREATIVITY OF THE HEAVENLY TRIO

5. How does Scripture give us to understand that all three persons of the Godhead were active in creation? Gen. 1:1-3, 26; 2:7; Job 33:4; John 1:1-4; Ps. 33:6-9

6. Besides this planet and its inhabitants, how wide-ranging was the creation by the Godhead? Heb. 1:2; 11:3; Col. 1:16

“The Father wrought by His Son in the creation of all heavenly beings. "By Him were all things created, . . . whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by Him, and for Him." Colossians 1:16. Angels are God's ministers, radiant with the light ever flowing from His presence and speeding on rapid wing to execute His will. But the Son, the anointed of God, the "express image of His person," "the brightness of His glory," "upholding all things by the word of His power," holds supremacy over them all. Hebrews 1:3. "A glorious high throne from the beginning," was the place of His sanctuary (Jeremiah 17:12); "a scepter of righteousness," the scepter of His kingdom. Hebrews 1:8. "Honor and majesty are before Him: strength and beauty are in His sanctuary." Psalm 96:6. Mercy and truth go before His face.” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 34.

7. What characteristic of the Godhead prompted them to create such a vast host of intelligences? 1 John 4:16; Isa. 43:7; Eph. 3:9-11

“So long as all created beings acknowledged the allegiance of love, there was perfect harmony throughout the universe of God. It was the joy of the heavenly host to fulfill the purpose of their Creator. They delighted in reflecting His glory and showing forth His praise. And while love to God

was supreme, love for one another was confiding and unselfish. There was no note of discord to mar the celestial harmonies.” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 35.

MEDITATION

“None of us liveth to himself.” Romans 14:7. This is a law of God in heaven and on earth. God is the great center. From Him all life proceeds. To Him all service, homage, and allegiance belong. For all created beings there is the one great principle of life--dependence upon and co-operation with God. The relationship existing in the pure family of God in heaven was to exist in the family of God on earth. Under God, Adam was to stand at the head of the earthly family to maintain the principles of the heavenly family. This would have brought peace and happiness. But the law that none "liveth to himself" Satan was determined to oppose. He desired to live for self. He sought to make himself a center of influence. It was this that incited rebellion in heaven, and it was man's acceptance of this principle that brought sin on earth. When Adam sinned, man broke away from the heaven-ordained center. A demon became the central power in the world. Where God's throne should have been, Satan had placed his throne. The world laid its homage, as a willing offering, at the feet of the enemy.” —*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 6*, p. 236.

The Position of Father

*One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.
Ephesians 4:6*

OBJECTIVES

- To focus on the first person of the Godhead in order to grasp the relationship of God to His creatures.
- To explore the relationship factors encompassed in the term "Father".

FATHER IN THE GODHEAD

- 1. Having seen that the eternal Godhead are three eternal persons, by what title is the first person addressed? Dan. 7:9; 1 John 5:7 (first part)**

"Thus was presented to the prophet's vision the great and solemn day when the characters and the lives of men should pass in review before the Judge of all the earth, and to every man should be rendered "according to his works." The Ancient of Days is God the Father. Says the psalmist: "Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever Thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God." Psalm 90:2. It is He, the source of all being, and the fountain of all law, that is to preside in the judgment. And holy angels as ministers and witnesses, in number "ten

thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands," attend this great tribunal." —*The Great Controversy*, p. 479.

2. How did the Father attempt to impart to the onlooker the relationship that exists within the Godhead? Ps. 2:7; Heb. 1:5

“Christ's mission on earth was to reveal to men that God was not a despot, but a heavenly Father, full of love and mercy for His children. He spoke of God by the endearing title of "My Father."” —*In Heavenly Places*, p. 14.

3. How did Jesus express the intimacy that existed between the Father and Himself? John 17:24-26. How did the Father express it? Zech. 13:7

“However much a shepherd may love his sheep, he loves his sons and daughters more. Jesus is not only our shepherd; He is our "everlasting Father." And He says, "I know Mine own, and Mine own know Me, even as the Father knoweth Me, and I know the Father." John 10:14, 15, R. V. What a statement is this!--the only-begotten Son, He who is in the bosom of the Father, He whom God has declared to be "the Man that is My fellow" (Zechariah 13:7),--the communion between Him and the eternal God is taken to represent the communion between Christ and His children on the earth!” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 483.

A FATHER'S LOVE

4. What comfort can be derived from the knowledge of the title given to the first person of the Godhead? Ps. 103:13

“Brethren, with the beloved John I call upon you to "behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God." What love, what matchless love, that, sinners and aliens as we are, we may be brought back to God and adopted into His family! We may address Him by the endearing name, "Our Father," which is a sign of our affection for Him and a pledge of His tender regard and relationship to us. And the Son of God, beholding the heirs of grace, "is not ashamed to call them brethren." They have even a more sacred relationship to God than have the angels who have never fallen.” —*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 5, p. 739.*

5. If the love that pulsates between the persons of the Godhead is conveyed to us by the endearment of “Father”, what dimensions of love open to our mind? Eph. 3:14-19

“All the paternal love which has come down from generation to generation through the channel of human hearts, all the springs of tenderness which have opened in the souls of men, are but as a tiny rill to the boundless ocean when compared with the infinite, exhaustless love of God. Tongue cannot utter it; pen cannot portray it. You may meditate upon it every day of your life; you may search the Scriptures diligently in order to understand it; you may summon every power and capability that God has given you, in the endeavor to comprehend the love and compassion of the heavenly Father; and yet there is an infinity beyond. You may study that love for ages; yet you can never fully comprehend the length and the breadth, the depth and the height, of the love of God in giving His Son to die for the world. Eternity itself can never fully reveal it. Yet as we study the Bible and meditate upon the life of Christ and the plan of redemption, these great themes will open to our understanding more and more.” — *The Faith I Live By p. 43.*

**6. What assurance may we have that the same love existing between the persons of the Godhead is extended to the believers?
John 17:26; 2 Cor. 6:17, 18**

“To His church, Christ has given ample facilities that He may receive a large revenue of glory from His redeemed, purchased possession. The church, being endowed with the righteousness of Christ, is His depository, in which the wealth of His mercy, His love, His grace, is to appear in full and final display. The declaration in His intercessory prayer, that the Father's love is as great toward us as toward Himself, the only-begotten Son, and that we shall be with Him where He is, forever one with Christ and the Father, is a marvel to the heavenly host, and it is their great joy. The gift of His Holy Spirit, rich, full, and abundant, is to be to His church as an encompassing wall of fire, which the powers of hell shall not prevail against. In their untainted purity and spotless perfection, Christ looks upon His people as the reward of all His suffering, His humiliation, and His love, and the supplement of His glory--Christ, the great center from which radiates all glory.” —*In Heavenly Places*, p. 282.

7. In consideration of such a Father figure, how are we invited to address Him? Rom. 8:14-17

“One of the lessons that we are to learn in the school of Christ is that the Lord's love for us is far greater than that of our earthly parents. We are to have unquestioning faith and perfect confidence in Him.” —*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 8*, p. 126.

“In viewing the holiness and glory of the God of the universe, we are terrified; for we know that his justice will not permit him to clear the guilty. But we need not remain in terror; for Christ came to the world to reveal the character of God, to make plain to us his paternal love toward his adopted children. We are not to estimate the character of God by the stupendous works of nature alone, but by the simple, lovely life of Jesus, who presented Jehovah as more merciful, more compassionate, more tender, than our earthly parents. Jesus presented the Father as one to whom we could give our confidence and present our wants. When we are in terror of God, and overwhelmed with the thought of his glory and majesty, the Father points us to Christ as his representative. What you see revealed in Jesus of tenderness, compassion, and love, is the reflection of the attributes of the Father. The cross of Calvary reveals to man the love of God. Christ represents the Sovereign of the universe as a God of love. By the mouth of the prophet he said, "I have loved thee with an everlasting love; therefore with loving-kindness have I drawn thee."” —*The Youth’s Instructor*, Sept. 22, 1892.

The Position of Son

But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom. Hebrews 1:8

OBJECTIVES

- To let Scripture demonstrate that the sonship of the second person of the Godhead was by decree and not by birth.
- To verify that the Son is in reality God and eternal.
- To demonstrate that the intimate relationship of Son to Father is a component of the Godhead also.

SON FROM ETERNITY

- 1. Explore the various titles carried by the second person of the Godhead. Isa. 9:6; Dan. 12:1 (first part); John 1:1, 14; Matt. 1:23; Rev. 1:8, 10, 11**

- 2. What was the decree by which His relationship characteristics would demonstrate the relationship components within the Godhead? Ps. 2:7; Heb. 1:5**

“He [Christ] served as a son with the Father. The serving of the Son of God with the Father has ennobled all service. [...] The work of Christ was not a divided heart service. Christ came not to do His own will, but the will of Him that sent Him. Jesus says, Step in the footprints of my Sonship in all obedience. I obey as in partnership with the great firm.” —*Manuscript Releases Volume 8*, p. 447.

3. How does Scripture verify that the sonship of the second person did not include a time when He did not exist? Micah 5:2; Prov. 8:22, 23, 30

“The Sovereign of the universe was not alone in His work of beneficence. He had an associate--a co-worker who could appreciate His purposes, and could share His joy in giving happiness to created beings. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God." John 1:1, 2. Christ, the Word, the only begotten of God, was one with the eternal Father--one in nature, in character, in purpose--the only being that could enter into all the counsels and purposes of God. "His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6. His "goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting." Micah 5:2. And the Son of God declares concerning Himself: "The Lord possessed Me in the beginning of His way, before His works of old. I was set up from everlasting. . . . When He appointed the foundations of the earth: then I was by Him, as one brought up with Him: and I was daily His delight, rejoicing always before Him." Proverbs 8:22-30.

“The Father wrought by His Son in the creation of all heavenly beings." By Him were all things created, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by Him, and for Him." Colossians 1:16. Angels are God's ministers, radiant with the light ever flowing from His presence and speeding on rapid wing to execute His will. But the Son, the anointed of God, the "express image of His person," "the brightness of His glory," "upholding all things by the word of His power,"

holds supremacy over them all. Hebrews 1:3. "A glorious high throne from the beginning," was the place of His sanctuary (Jeremiah 17:12); "a scepter of righteousness," the scepter of His kingdom. Hebrews 1:8. "Honor and majesty are before Him: strength and beauty are in His sanctuary." Psalm 96:6. Mercy and truth go before His face." — *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 34.

SONSHIP

4. How did the Father and the Holy Spirit express their relationship with Emmanuel? Matt. 3:16, 17. What did this mean? Phil. 2:5, 6

“Christ is the pre-existent, self-existent Son of God.... In speaking of his pre-existence, Christ carries the mind back through dateless ages. He assures us that there never was a time when He was not in close fellowship with the eternal God. He to whose voice the Jews were then listening had been with God as one brought up with Him.”

“He was equal with God, infinite and omnipotent. . . . He is the eternal, self-existent Son.” — *Evangelism*, p. 615.

5. What privilege in sonship is depicted in the fact that one equal with God was decreed “Son of God”? Heb. 1:1-3

“Christ was the heir of all things, by whom also the worlds were made. He was the brightness of the Father's glory, and the "express image of his person."” — *Bible Echo and Signs of the Times*, Jan. 1, 1887.

6. With this component of the Godhead in the Son of God, how was such a privilege of heirship transferrable to the human race? Gal. 4:4-7; Rom. 8:17

“Will man take hold of divine power, and with determination and perseverance resist Satan, as Christ has given him example in His conflict with the foe in the wilderness of temptation? God cannot save man against his will from the power of Satan's artifices. Man must work with his human power, aided by the divine power of Christ, to resist and to conquer at any cost to himself. In short, man must overcome as Christ overcame. And then, through the victory that it is his privilege to gain by the all-powerful name of Jesus, he may become an heir of God and joint heir with Jesus Christ. This could not be the case if Christ alone did all the overcoming. Man must do his part; he must be victor on his own account, through the strength and grace that Christ gives him. Man must be a co-worker with Christ in the labor of overcoming, and then he will be partaker with Christ of His glory.”

—*Testimonies for the Church Volume 4*, p. 32.

7. By what words is the intimacy of the Son with the Father described? John 10:30; 1:18; 17:5, 24 (last phrase)

8. What does that intimacy mean to us who believe? Isa. 9:6 (first part)

“In taking our nature, the Saviour has bound Himself to humanity by a tie that is never to be broken. Through the eternal ages He is linked with us. . . . "Unto *us* a child is born, unto *us* a son is given: . . ." (Isaiah 9:6). God has adopted human nature in the person of His Son, and has carried the same into the highest heaven. It is the "Son of man" who shares the throne of the universe. . . . In Christ the family of earth and the family of heaven are bound together. Christ glorified is our brother. Heaven is enshrined in humanity, and humanity is enfolded in the bosom of Infinite Love.” —*God’s Amazing Grace*, p. 79.

MEDITATION

“What a favor, what mercy, what inexpressible love, is thus revealed! This intimacy of Jesus with man can be brought about only through his taking upon himself our sins and imputing unto us his own righteousness.

““He hath made him to be sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." If Christ is abiding in the soul, our prayers and works are wholly acceptable to God. Through obedience to all the commandments of God, we are accepted in the Beloved. We enter into the rights and privileges of Jesus, and the victories which he achieves.”
—*The Signs of the Times*, Dec. 28, 1891.

The Position of Holy Spirit

But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. 1 Corinthians 2:10

OBJECTIVES

- To soundly establish that the Holy Spirit is a person and is included in the Godhead.
- To appreciate the relationship this person establishes within the Godhead.
- To reveal the activity of this person in the workings of the Godhead.

PERSONA OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- 1. How clearly does Inspiration declare the separate persona entity of the Holy Spirit within the Godhead? 1 John 5:7; Isa. 48:16; John 14:16**

“The Holy Spirit is a person, for He beareth witness with our spirits that we are the children of God. When this witness is borne, it carries with it its own evidence. At such times we believe and are sure that we are the children of God.

“The Holy Spirit has a personality, else He could not bear witness to our spirits and with our spirits that we are the children of God. He must also be a divine person, else He could not search out the secrets which lie hidden in the mind of God. "For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit

of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God." —*Evangelism*, pp. 616, 617.

2. In His relationship with the Father and Son, how does He portray Himself? John 16:13-15; Gen. 1:2

“It is not essential for us to be able to define just what the Holy Spirit is. Christ tells us that the Spirit is the Comforter, “the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father.” It is plainly declared regarding the Holy Spirit that, in His work of guiding men into all truth, “He shall not speak of Himself.”

“The Spirit is given as a regenerating agency, to make effectual the salvation wrought by the death of our Redeemer. The Spirit is constantly seeking to draw the attention of men to the great offering that was made on the cross of Calvary, to unfold to the world the love of God, and to open to the convicted soul the precious things of the Scriptures.” —*The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 51, 52.

DEEP INTERNAL RELATIONSHIP

3. How is the intimacy within the Godhead represented by the Holy Spirit? 1 Cor. 2:10

“He [the Holy Spirit] must also be a divine person, else He could not search out the secrets which lie hidden in the mind of God.” —*Evangelism*, p. 617.

4. How has God’s mind been communicated to humanity sufficiently for their redeeming benefit? 1 Cor. 2:9, 10, 13; 2 Pet. 1:21; 2 Tim. 3:16, 17

“Never can humanity, of itself, attain to a knowledge of the divine." It is as high as heaven; what canst thou do? deeper than hell; what canst thou know?" (Job 11:8). Only the spirit of adoption can reveal to us the deep things of God, which "eye hath not seen, not ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man." "God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit; for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God".” —*Conflict and Courage*, p. 311.

DIVINE RELATIONSHIP COMMUNICATOR

5. While the Father sits upon His throne in heaven and Jesus sits at His right hand, who communes the Godhead relationship to His creatures? 1 John 5:8; Ps. 139:7-12

“The Holy Spirit is the source of all power, and works as a living, active agent in the new life created in the soul. The Holy Spirit is to be in us a divine indweller” —*The Review and Herald*, June 29, 1897.

6. As the deep relationship of the Godhead could not be transferred to us on account of the position of Father and Son, how did Jesus announce the solution to this problem? John 16:28, 7; 14:16-18, 23

“The Holy Spirit is Christ's representative, but divested of the personality of humanity, and independent thereof. Cumbered with humanity, Christ could not be in every place personally. Therefore it was for their interest that He should go to the Father, and send the Spirit to be His successor on earth. No one could then have any advantage because of his location or his personal contact with Christ. By the Spirit the Saviour would be accessible to all. In this sense He would be nearer to them than if He had not ascended on high.

—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 669.

7. Due to the deep intimacy of the Holy Spirit in the Godhead, what is the interchange possible between us and God? 1 Cor. 2:12; 2 Cor. 3:17, 18; Rom. 8:26, 27

“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. The gratitude which flows from our lips is the result of the Spirit striking the cords of the soul in holy memories, awakening the music of the heart.”

—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 6*, p. 1077.

MEDITATION

“All our actions are affected by our religious experience, and if this experience is founded on God and we understand the mysteries of godliness, if we are daily receiving of the power of the world to come, and hold communion with God, and have the fellowship of the Spirit, if we are each day holding with a firmer grasp the higher life, and drawing closer and still closer to the bleeding side of the Redeemer, we shall have inwrought in us principles that are holy and elevating. Then it will be as natural for us to seek purity and holiness and separation from the world, as it is for the angels of glory to execute the mission of love assigned them in saving mortals from the corrupting influence of the world. Every one who enters the pearly gates of the city of God will be a doer of the Word. He will be a partaker of the

divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. It is our privilege to realize the fulness there is in Christ, and be blessed by the provision made through Him. Ample provision has been made that we should be raised from the lowlands of earth, and have our affections fastened upon God and heavenly things.” —*This Day With God*, p. 94.

Creation of Angels and Worlds

For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him. Colossians 1:16

OBJECTIVES

- To discern that there was a time when only the Godhead existed.
- To appreciate that the relationship of love within the Godhead prompted the creation of other beings.
- To see that the relationships of the Godhead would be the property of all God's created intelligences.

BEFORE ALL THINGS

- 1. What conclusion can only be drawn from the following scriptures?
Col. 1:15, 17; Gen. 1:1; Isa. 48:16; Ps. 90:2**

“If Christ made all things, He existed before all things. The words spoken in regard to this are so decisive that no one need be left in doubt. Christ was God essentially, and in the highest sense. He was with God from all eternity. God over all, blessed forevermore.” —*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 5, p. 1126.*

- 2. How else does Scripture reveal that there was a time that the universe was without inhabitants apart from the heavenly trio?
Heb. 1:2; 11:3**

PROMPTINGS OF LOVE

- 3. What is the calibre of love that dwells in the Godhead?
1 John 4:7, 8, 16**

“God is love. Like rays of light from the sun, love and light and joy flow out from Him to all His creatures. It is His nature to give. His very life is the outflow of unselfish love.

“His glory is His children's good;
His joy, His tender Fatherhood.”
—*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 77.

- 4. How is this verified by the Holy Spirit? Gal. 5:22**

“As you receive the Spirit of Christ--the Spirit of unselfish love and labor for others--you will grow and bring forth fruit. The graces of the Spirit will ripen in your character. Your faith will increase, your convictions deepen,

your love be made perfect. More and more you will reflect the likeness of Christ in all that is pure, noble, and lovely.” —*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 67.

5. How did this love become manifest in the creation of angels and the worlds? Isa. 43:7

“Every manifestation of creative power is an expression of infinite love. The sovereignty of God involves fullness of blessing to all created beings.” —*Mind, Character, and Personality Vol. 1*, p. 247.

“...that unselfish love which is the very atmosphere of the unfallen universe.” —*The Faith I Live By*, p. 60.

SOURCE OF ALL RELATIONSHIPS

6. Reflecting upon the previous note, do we correctly conclude that the relationship qualities within the Godhead are passed on to all intelligences created by God? Ps. 36:9

“All created beings live by the will and power of God. They are dependent recipients of the life of God. From the highest seraph to the humblest animate being, all are replenished from the Source of life.” —*The Faith I Live By*, p. 164.

“From eternal ages it was God’s purpose that every created being, from the bright and holy seraph to man, should be a temple for the indwelling of the Creator.” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 161.

7. As God enlarged the family of heaven, how does Inspiration describe the attitude of its members, and how did it get there?

“But in heaven, service is not rendered in the spirit of legality. [...] In their ministry the angels are not as servants, but as sons. There is perfect unity between them and their Creator. Obedience is to them no drudgery. Love for God makes their service a joy.” —*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 109.

“There we shall know even as also we are known. There the loves and sympathies that God has planted in the soul will find truest and sweetest exercise. The pure communion with holy beings, the harmonious social life with the blessed angels and with the faithful ones of all ages, the sacred fellowship that binds together "the whole family in heaven and earth"--all are among the experiences of the hereafter.” —*The Adventist Home*, p. 548.

8. How does the unfallen universe convey their relationship toward God and His creation? Job 38:4-7

“In the beginning the Father and the Son had rested upon the Sabbath after their work of creation. When "the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them," the Creator and all heavenly beings rejoiced in contemplation of the glorious scene. "The morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy.” —*My Life Today*, p. 364.

“We are a spectacle to the world, to angels, and to men. The whole universe is looking with inexpressible interest to see the closing work of the great controversy between Christ and Satan.” —*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 5*, p. 526.

Angelic Relationships

Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle. Psalm 24:7, 8

OBJECTIVES

- To reinforce the understanding that the relationship characteristics of the Godhead are transferred to those whom God creates.
- To behold these characteristics in the conduct of angels toward one another.
- To see the order adhered to by them in their activities.

COPY OF THE DIVINE

1. How does the Bible express the relationship the angels have to God? Job 38:7; 1:6

“When Christ came to this earth the first time, He came in lowliness and obscurity, and His life here was one of suffering and poverty. At His second coming all will be changed. Not as a prisoner surrounded by a rabble will men see Him, but as heaven's King. Christ will come in His own glory, in the glory of His Father, and in the glory of the holy angels. Ten thousand times ten thousand and thousands of thousands of angels, the beautiful, triumphant sons of God, possessing surpassing loveliness and glory, will escort Him on His way. In the place of a crown of thorns, He will wear a crown of glory--a crown within a crown. In the place of that old purple robe,

He will be clothed in a garment of whitest white, "so as no fuller on earth can white" (Mark 9:3) it. And on His vesture and on His thigh a name will be written, "King of kings, and Lord of lords." —*God's Amazing Grace*, p. 358.

2. As creatures fashioned by God, sons of God, what characteristics would they inherit?

“Everything in heaven is noble and elevated. All seek the interest and happiness of others. No one devotes himself to looking out and caring for self. It is the chief joy of all holy beings to witness the joy and happiness of those around them.” —*My Life Today*, p. 359.

“In their ministry the angels are [...] as sons. There is perfect unity between them and their Creator.” —*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 109.

3. How does the Bible symbolise the transferal of the divine relationships? Zech. 4:11-14

“In this vision the two olive trees which stand before God are represented as emptying the golden oil out of themselves through golden tubes into the bowl of the candlestick. From this the lamps of the sanctuary are fed, that they may give a bright, continuous light. So from the anointed ones that stand in God's presence the fullness of divine light and love and power is imparted to His people, that they may impart to others light and joy and refreshing. Those who are thus enriched are to enrich others with the treasure of God's love.” —*Prophets and Kings*, p. 594.

CONDUCT OF ANGELS

4. What is shown of the angels in their relationship with one another? Ezek. 10:16, 17

“I saw the loveliness of Jesus and the love that the angels have for one another. Said the angel, Can ye not behold their love? Follow it. Just so God's people must love one another. Rather let blame fall on thyself than on a brother.” —*Manuscript Releases Vol. 12*, p. 246.

“Peace and joy, in perfect submission to the will of Heaven, existed throughout the angelic host. Love to God was supreme, love for one another impartial.” —*The Spirit of Prophecy Vol. 4*, p. 316.

5. What shows the childlike manner of the angels one to another? Ps. 24:7-10

“As He ascended the challenge was given by the escorting angels "Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in." Joyfully the waiting sentinels make response, "Who is this King of glory?" This they say, not because they do not know who He is, but because they would hear His praises. The answer comes back, "The Lord strong and mighty; the Lord mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors, and the King of glory shall come in."

“Again the response is heard, "Who is this King of glory," for the angels never weary of hearing His name exalted. In strains of heavenly music the escorting angels make reply, "The Lord of hosts; He is the King of glory."

Emmanuel, God with us, "is gone up with a shout; the Lord with the sound of a trumpet." —*The Bible Echo*, May 22, 1899.

ORDER & WILLING SUBMISSION AMONG THEM

6. What is written of their submission to God, and how do they exhibit this among each other? Ps. 103:19, 20

“The disciples were afraid of their own lives, and fled one this way, and the other that, and Jesus was left alone. O what triumph of Satan then! And what sadness and sorrow with the angels of God! Many companies of holy angels, with each a tall commanding angel at their head, were sent to witness the scene. They were to record every act, every insult and cruelty imposed upon the Son of God, and to register every pang of anguish which Jesus should suffer; for the very men should see it all again in living characters.

“There stood Jesus, meek and humble before the infuriated multitude, while they offered him the meanest abuse. They spit in his face--that face which they will one day desire to be hid from, which will give light to the city of God, and shine brighter than the sun--but not an angry look did he cast upon the offenders. He meekly raised his hand, and wiped it off. They covered his head with an old garment; blindfolded him, and then struck him in the face, and cried out, Prophecy unto us who it was that smote thee. There was commotion among the angels. They would have rescued him instantly; but their commanding angel restrained them.” —*Spiritual Gifts Vol. 1*, pp. 48, 51.

“Soon after they had commenced their earnest cry, the angels, in sympathy, would have gone to their deliverance. But a tall, commanding angel suffered them not. Said he: "The will of God is not yet fulfilled. They must drink of the cup. They must be baptized with the baptism."” —*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 1*, p. 183.

7. What exclamation came from Sister White as she saw the order among the angels?

“There is perfect order and harmony in the Holy City. All the angels that are commissioned to visit the earth hold a golden card, which they present to the angels at the gates of the city as they pass in and out. Heaven is a good place. I long to be there and behold my lovely Jesus, who gave His life for me, and be changed into His glorious image. Oh, for language to express the glory of the bright world to come! I thirst for the living streams that make glad the city of our God.” —*Early Writings*, p. 39.

“There is perfect order in heaven, perfect concord and agreement. If parents so neglect to bring their children under proper authority here, how can they hope that they will be considered fit companions for the holy angels in a world of peace and harmony?” —*Child Guidance*, p. 229.

8. Upon contemplating the angelic deportment and inter-relationship, how shall we conclude regarding our preparation to enter their society? Heb. 1:13, 14; Zech. 3:3-7

“The life on earth is the beginning of the life in heaven.

“We are children of the heavenly King, members of the royal family, heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ. The mansions Jesus has gone to prepare are to receive only those who are true, who are pure, who love and obey His words. . . . If we would enjoy eternal bliss, we must cultivate religion in the home. . . . Peace, harmony, affection, and happiness should be perseveringly cherished every day, until these precious things abide in the hearts of those who compose the family.

“That which will make the character lovely in the home is that which will make it lovely in the heavenly mansions.”

“There the loves and sympathies that God has planted in the soul will find truest and sweetest exercise. The pure communion with holy beings, the harmonious social life with the blessed angels and with the faithful ones of all ages, the sacred fellowship that binds together "the whole family in heaven and earth"--all are among the experiences of the hereafter. . . . With unutterable delight we shall enter into the joy and the wisdom of unfallen beings.” —*The Faith I Live By*, p. 279.

Line of Command

*But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.
1 Corinthians 11:3*

OBJECTIVES

- To see that although the Godhead is three equal persons, and the angels are equal, yet there is submission to leadership.
- To learn that good relationships are achieved when there is cheerful submission to the one set over us.
- To accept that in God's order a line of command is established.

LEADERSHIP, YET EQUALITY

- 1. Having already established that the Godhead is made up of three equal beings, Father, Word, and Holy Spirit, yet what positions of leadership and subordination is taken up among them? Compare John 10:30-33 with 1 Cor. 11:3 (last phrase) and John 14:28, and John 6:38**

“Jesus emptied Himself, and in all that He did self did not appear. He subordinated all things to the will of His Father. When His mission on earth was about to close, He could say, “I have glorified Thee on the earth: I have finished the work which Thou gavest Me to do.” And He bids us, “Learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart.” “If any man will come after Me, let

him deny himself"; let self be dethroned, and no longer hold the supremacy of the soul." —*Messages to Young People*, p. 162.

"The work of the Spirit had been clearly defined by Christ. "He shall not speak of Himself," He said, "He shall glorify Me." As Christ came to glorify the Father by the revelation of His infinite love, so the Spirit came to glorify Christ." —*Manuscript Releases Vol. 2*, p. 45.

2. As three separate persons, with individual minds, what quality of relationships did they convey? Isa. 57:15; Phil. 2:2, 3, 5-11; 1 Cor. 14:33, 1 Pet. 5:5

"Before the fall of Satan, the Father consulted his Son in regard to the formation of man." —*Spiritual Gifts Vol. 3*, p. 36.

"The Father consulted His Son in regard to at once carrying out their purpose to make man to inhabit the earth. He would place man upon probation to test his loyalty before he could be rendered eternally secure. If he endured the test wherewith God saw fit to prove him, he should eventually be equal with the angels. He was to have the favor of God, and he was to converse with angels, and they with him. He did not see fit to place them beyond the power of disobedience." —*The Story of Redemption*, p. 19.

FORMATION OF LEADERSHIP

**3. Is there a line of command among the angels? Isa. 6:1, 2; Ezek. 10:6,
7**

"Christ was crucified, but in wondrous power and glory he rose from the tomb. He took in his grasp the world over which Satan claimed to preside,

and restored the human race to favor with God. And at this glorious completion of his work, songs of triumph echoed and re-echoed through the unfallen worlds. Angel and archangel, cherubim and seraphim, joined in the chorus of victory.” —*The Youth’s Instructor*, Apr. 16, 1903.

4. Are there angels who are placed in position over other angels, and what is the highest position? Ex. 25:18-20; Zech. 4:13, 14; Luke 1:19

“The disciples feared for their own lives, and they all forsook Him and fled. Jesus was left alone in the hands of the murderous mob. Oh, what a triumph of Satan then! And what sadness and sorrow with the angels of God! Many companies of holy angels, each with a tall commanding angel at their head, were sent to witness the scene. They were to record every insult and cruelty imposed upon the Son of God, and to register every pang of anguish which Jesus should suffer; for the very men who joined in this dreadful scene are to see it all again in living characters.” —*Early Writings*, p. 168.

“One of the most exalted order of angels is sent from Heaven; his countenance is like the lightning, and his garments white as snow. He parts the darkness from his track, and the whole heavens are lit with his resplendent glory. The sleeping soldiers start simultaneously to their feet, and gaze with awe and wonder at the open, lighted heavens, and the vision of brightness which approaches. The earth trembles and heaves; soldiers, officers, and sentinels all fall as dead men prostrate upon the earth. The evil angels, who have triumphantly claimed the body of Christ, flee in terror from the place. One of the mighty, commanding angels who has, with his company, been keeping watch over the tomb of his Master, joins the powerful angel who comes from Heaven; and together they advance directly to the sepulcher.” —*The Spirit of Prophecy Vol. 3*, p. 191.

5. Do the higher angels direct and command those of lower position? Rev. 7:1-3

“If such scenes as this are to come, such tremendous judgments on a guilty world, where will be the refuge for God's people? How will they be sheltered until the indignation be overpast? John sees the elements of nature-- earthquake, tempest, and political strife-- represented as being held by four angels. These winds are under control until God gives the word to let them go. There is the safety of God's church. The angels of God do His bidding, holding back the winds of the earth, that the winds should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree, until the servants of God should be sealed in their foreheads. The mighty angel is seen ascending from the east (or sunrising). This mightiest of angels has in his hand the seal of the living God, or of Him who alone can give life, who can inscribe upon the foreheads the mark or inscription, to whom shall be granted immortality, eternal life. It is the voice of this highest angel that had authority to command the four angels to keep in check the four winds until this work was performed, and until he should give the summons to let them loose.” —*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 444.

ORDERLY, HARMONIOUS RELATIONSHIPS

6. Who is responsible for the existence of such levels of command? Ezek. 28:14

“Before his fall Satan was next to Christ, the highest angel in heaven.”
—*Christ Triumphant*, p. 197.

“Cherubim and seraphim have only the glory with which they are endowed by the Creator as His creatures...” —*Selected Messages Book 1*, p. 257.

**7. What similar order has God arranged for His people on earth?
1 Cor. 11:3, Deut. 1:13-15**

“The government of Israel was characterized by the most thorough organization, wonderful alike for its completeness and its simplicity. The order so strikingly displayed in the perfection and arrangement of all God's created works was manifest in the Hebrew economy. God was the center of authority and government, the sovereign of Israel. Moses stood as their visible leader, by God's appointment, to administer the laws in His name. From the elders of the tribes a council of seventy was afterward chosen to assist Moses in the general affairs of the nation. Next came the priests, who consulted the Lord in the sanctuary. Chiefs, or princes, ruled over the tribes. Under these were "captains over thousands, and captains over hundreds, and captains over fifties, and captains over tens," and, lastly, officers who might be employed for special duties.” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 374.

8. What willing submission characterised by the angels to this order reveals the lesson we need to gain for the sweet harmony of relationships? Ps. 103:19-22

“God is a God of order. Everything connected with heaven is in perfect order; subjection and thorough discipline mark the movements of the angelic host. Success can only attend order and harmonious action. God requires order and system in His work now no less than in the days of Israel. All who are working for Him are to labor intelligently, not in a careless, haphazard manner. He would have his work done with faith and exactness, that He may place the seal of His approval upon it.” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 376.

MEDITATION

“Angels work harmoniously. Perfect order characterizes all their movements. The more closely we imitate the harmony and order of the angelic host, the more successful will be the efforts of these heavenly agents in our behalf. If we see no necessity for harmonious action, and are disorderly, undisciplined, and disorganized in our course of action, angels, who are thoroughly organized and move in perfect order, cannot work for us successfully. They turn away in grief, for they are not authorized to bless confusion, distraction, and disorganization. All who desire the co-operation of the heavenly messengers must work in unison with them. Those who have the unction from on high will in all their efforts encourage order, discipline, and union of action, and then the angels of God can co-operate with them. But never, never will these heavenly messengers place their endorsement upon irregularity, disorganization, and disorder. All these evils are the result of Satan's efforts to weaken our forces, to destroy courage, and prevent successful action.” —*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 1, p. 649.*

Angels and Michael

*But I will show thee that which is noted in the scripture of truth: and there is none that holdeth with me in these things, but Michael your prince.
Daniel 10:21*

OBJECTIVES

- To confirm who Michael is.
- To study His relationship with the angels.
- To learn from the angels the relationship we may have with Him.

IDENTITY OF MICHAEL

1. How does the Bible qualify Michael? Jude 1:9; Dan. 10:13

“What great honor is shown to Daniel by the Majesty of heaven! He comforts His trembling servant and assures him that his prayer has been heard in heaven. In answer to that fervent petition the angel Gabriel was sent to affect the heart of the Persian king. The monarch had resisted the impressions of the Spirit of God during the three weeks while Daniel was fasting and praying, but heaven's Prince, the Archangel, Michael, was sent to turn the heart of the stubborn king to take some decided action to answer the prayer of Daniel.” —*The Sanctified Life*, p. 51.

2. Can we discern more clearly who this person is? Dan. 10:21; 12:1; 1 Thess. 4:16

“Satan exulted that he had succeeded in causing Moses to sin against God. For this transgression, Moses came under the dominion of death. If he had continued faithful, and his life had not been marred with that one transgression, in failing to give to God the glory of bringing water from the rock, he would have entered the promised land, and would have been translated to Heaven without seeing death. Michael, or Christ, with the angels that buried Moses, came down from Heaven, after he had remained in the grave a short time, and resurrected him, and took him to Heaven.”
—*The Spirit of Prophecy Vol. 1*, p. 342.

CHRIST AS AN ANGEL

3. Why is the Son of God spoken of as an angel? Col. 1:15; Ex. 23:20-23; Rev. 8:3, 4

“Jesus was the angel enshrouded in the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night.” —*The Truth about Angels*, p. 97.

“Pray, yes, pray with unshaken faith and trust. The Angel of the covenant, even our Lord Jesus Christ, is the Mediator who secures the acceptance of the prayers of His believing ones.” —*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 8*, p. 179.

4. How did God have to enlighten the angels as to who Michael really was?

“The King of the universe summoned the heavenly hosts before Him, that in their presence He might set forth the true position of His Son and show the relation He sustained to all created beings. The Son of God shared the Father's throne, and the glory of the eternal, self-existent One encircled both. About the throne gathered the holy angels, a vast, unnumbered throng--"ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands" (Revelation 5:11.), the most exalted angels, as ministers and subjects, rejoicing in the light that fell upon them from the presence of the Deity. Before the assembled inhabitants of heaven the King declared that none but Christ, the Only Begotten of God, could fully enter into His purposes, and to Him it was committed to execute the mighty counsels of His will. The Son of God had wrought the Father's will in the creation of all the hosts of heaven; and to Him, as well as to God, their homage and allegiance were due. Christ was still to exercise divine power, in the creation of the earth and its inhabitants. But in all this He would not seek power or exaltation for Himself contrary to God's plan, but would exalt the Father's glory and execute His purposes of beneficence and love.” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 36.

COMMANDER OF ANGELS

5. In their relationship with Michael, what does Inspiration reveal? Ps. 103:20, 21

“Jesus was the majesty of heaven, the beloved commander of the angels, who delighted to do His pleasure.” —*Selected Messages Book 1*, p. 321.

“He was the Majesty of heaven. [...] Angels loved to do His bidding.” —*My Life Today* p. 299.

6. What is revealed regarding the activities of Jesus and His angels in the history of the Hebrews? Ps. 68:17

“Christ was the angel appointed of God to go before Moses in the wilderness, conducting the Israelites in their travels to the land of Canaan.

“In all the way of God's leading, they [the Israelites] had found water to refresh the thirsty, bread from heaven to satisfy their hunger, and peace and safety under the shadowy cloud by day and the fiery pillar by night. Angels were ministering to them as they climbed the rocky heights, or threaded the rugged paths of the wilderness.”

“[The] Leader [of the Israelites] was a mighty general of armies. His angels, that do His bidding, walked on either side of the vast armies of Israel, and no harm could come to them. Israel was safe. Then came the sacred song of triumph, led by Miriam.” —*The Truth About Angels*, pp. 98, 97.

PROJECTED RELATIONSHIP WITH HUMANITY

7. Why did God create the human race? Rev. 12:7-9; 12:4

“God created man for His own glory, that after test and trial the human family might become one with the heavenly family. It was God's purpose to repopulate heaven with the human family...”

“The vacancies made in heaven by the fall of Satan and his angels will be filled by the redeemed of the Lord.” —*The Truth about Angels*, pp. 48, 49.

8. What has Jesus done to endear us to Himself in a relationship that existed between Him and His angels? Phil. 2:6-11

“The significance of the death of Christ will be seen by saints and angels. Fallen men could not have a home in the paradise of God without the Lamb

slain from the foundation of the world. . . . The angels ascribe honor and glory to Christ, for even they are not secure except by looking to the sufferings of the Son of God. It is through the efficacy of the cross that the angels of heaven are guarded from apostasy. Without the cross they would be no more secure against evil than were the angels before the fall of Satan. Angelic perfection failed in heaven. Human perfection failed in Eden. The plan of salvation, making manifest the justice and love of God, provides an eternal safeguard against defection in unfallen worlds. The death of Christ on the cross of Calvary is our only hope in this world, and it will be our theme in the world to come.” —*The Truth About Angels*, p. 205.

MEDITATION

“The solemn, earnest prayer of Christ . . . reaches down along the line to our time. What a position is this for fallen man to attain through obedience--oneness with God through Jesus Christ! To what heights we are permitted to rise if we will have respect unto the recompense of the reward! We are to receive power from God that human nature, under the divine working, may not always be perverted and not always be under the depraving, corrupting influence of sin. Human nature, through Jesus Christ, becomes allied to angels--yes, even to the great God.” —*Our High Calling*, p. 170.

“Divine culture brings perfection. If in connection with God the work is carried forward, the human agent, through Christ, will day by day gain victory and honor in the battle. Through the grace given he will overcome, and will be placed on vantage ground. In his relation to Christ he will be bone of His bone, flesh of His flesh, one with Christ in a peculiar relationship, because Christ took the humanity of man. He became subject to temptation, endangering as it were, His divine attributes. Satan sought, by the constant and curious devices of his cunning, to make Christ yield to temptation. Man must pass over the ground over which Christ has passed. As Christ overcame every temptation which Satan brought against Him, so man is to overcome. And those who strive earnestly to overcome are brought into a oneness with Christ that the angels in heaven can never know.” —*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 7*, p. 926.

NOTES

Perfect Harmony

And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day. Genesis 1:31

OBJECTIVES

- To meditate regarding the meaning of harmony.
- To study more deeply the perfect harmony of the universal family before Lucifer's fall.
- To explore the elements that constitute harmony.

UNDERSTANDING HARMONY

- 1. Considering relationships, what is encompassed by the term "harmony"? 2 Cor. 6:14-16; Phil. 2:2, 3**

"Agreement, accord, unanimity, like-mindedness, conformity, unity, amicability, amity, congeniality, sympathy, compatibility, fellowship, friendship, co-operation, mutual regard, peace, good understanding, concurrence in opinions." —*Reader's Digest Oxford Complete Word Finder*, Harmony.

- 2. What is the central element by which harmony can exist among multiple beings? 1 Cor. 13:4-8**

“The law of love being the foundation of the government of God, the happiness of all intelligent beings depends upon their perfect accord with its great principles of righteousness. God desires from all His creatures the service of love--service that springs from an appreciation of His character. He takes no pleasure in a forced obedience; and to all He grants freedom of will, that they may render Him voluntary service.

“So long as all created beings acknowledged the allegiance of love, there was perfect harmony throughout the universe of God. It was the joy of the heavenly host to fulfill the purpose of their Creator. They delighted in reflecting His glory and showing forth His praise. And while love to God was supreme, love for one another was confiding and unselfish. There was no note of discord to mar the celestial harmonies.” —*Lift Him Up*, p. 50.

EXEMPLARY HARMONY

3. How did Jesus describe His harmonious relationship in His position with the Godhead? What was it that bound them together? John 17:5, 22, 24, 26

“Christ is not praying for the manifestation of the glory of human nature; for that human nature never had an existence in His pre-existence. He is praying to His Father in regard to a glory possessed in His oneness with God. His prayer is that of a mediator; the favor He entreats in the manifestation of that divine glory which was possessed by Him when He was one with God. Let the veil be removed, He says, and let My glory shine forth--the glory which I had with Thee before the world was.” —*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 5*, p. 1146.

4. When God created other intelligent beings to populate heaven and other worlds, what does Inspiration suggest was His purpose? Neh. 9:6; Isa. 43:7

“And we are to be sharers in His glory; for Christ says, "The glory which thou givest me I have given them." What is that glory? The character of Christ. Can we ask any greater endowment? To have any place in heaven, to be in the presence of Christ, seems a blessing too great for sinful human beings to enjoy. But the marvelous mercy and goodness and love of God are beyond our comprehension. By accepting Christ as his personal Saviour, man is brought into the same close relation to God, and enjoys His special favor as does His own beloved Son. He is honored and glorified and intimately associated with God, his life being hid with Christ in God.”

—*The Paulson Collection*, p. 106.

5. How was this glory displayed among the host of the universe?

Luke 2:12, 13; Isa. 6:1-3; Ps. 103:20-22

“No voices of contention mar the sweet and perfect peace of heaven. Its inhabitants know no sorrow, no grief, no tears. All is in perfect harmony, in perfect order and perfect bliss.

“Heaven is a home where sympathy is alive in every heart, expressed in every look. Love reigns there. There are no jarring elements, no discord or contentions or war of words.” —*Heaven*, p. 141.

6. As these heavenly intelligences came fresh from the Creator’s hand, what was the glorious harmony manifest between them, and what only would keep it so? Ps. 89:14-17

“The law of love being the foundation of the government of God, the happiness of all intelligent beings depends upon their perfect accord with its great principles of righteousness. God desires from all His creatures the

service of love--service that springs from an appreciation of His character. He takes no pleasure in a forced obedience; and to all He grants freedom of will, that they may render Him voluntary service.

“So long as all created beings acknowledged the allegiance of love, there was perfect harmony throughout the universe of God. It was the joy of the heavenly host to fulfill the purpose of their Creator. They delighted in reflecting His glory and showing forth His praise. And while love to God was supreme, love for one another was confiding and unselfish. There was no note of discord to mar the celestial harmonies.” —*Lift Him Up*, p. 50.

“Heart touches heart, and the blending of soul with soul is like the heavenly intercourse between ministering angels.” —*Evangelism*, p. 333.

“The angels love to bow before God, they love to be near him. They regard intercourse with God as their highest joy.” —*The Signs of the Times*, Dec. 23, 1889.

CALL TO HUMANITY

- 7. As we consider the glories of such harmony, do we feel the call to embrace the elements that constitute this harmonious society?
Zech. 3:6, 7**

“How long a time are you designing to take to prepare to be introduced into the society of heavenly angels in glory? In the state which you and your family are in at present, all heaven would be marred should you be introduced therein. The work for you must be done here. This earth is the fitting-up place. You have not one moment to lose. All is harmony, peace, and love in heaven. No discord, no strife, no censuring, no unloving words, no clouded brows, no jars there; and no one will be introduced there who possesses any of these elements so destructive to peace and happiness. Study to be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate, laying up for yourselves a good foundation against the time to come, that you may lay hold on everlasting life.” —*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 1*, p. 705.

**8. How sincerely does the Bible appeal to us to respond? Phil. 2:1-3;
2 Cor. 13:14**

“Wait not for some magical change to be wrought in you, without taking the requisite steps yourself. Life must be with you a humble working out your own salvation with fear and trembling for it is God that worketh in you to will and to do of His good pleasure. Halt not, but escape for your life.

“Many of your brethren and sisters have been helping you in a wrong course. May God forgive them. They have caused dissension and confusion in the church. Christ requires that we shall press together, that we shall be one with Him as He is one with the Father. You must depend on God, be disciplined and trained for the higher life. Yes, depend on God; wait His pleasure; follow Him; rely in obedience on the strength of His word.” —*Manuscript Releases Vol. 5, p. 337.*

Law of Love

Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. Romans 13:10

OBJECTIVES

- To show that relationships are kept sweet by the enactments of true love.
- To see that the law of God is the love which God is.
- To reveal that the harmony of heaven is due to the adherence of its inhabitants to this law.

FOUNDATION OF GOOD RELATIONSHIPS

1. What is the pivotal ingredient that keeps relationships running smoothly and harmoniously? 1 Cor. 13:4-7, 13

“If the divine harmony of truth and love exists in the heart, it will shine forth in words and actions. The most careful cultivation of the outward proprieties and courtesies of life has not sufficient power to shut out all fretfulness, harsh judgment, and unbecoming speech. The spirit of genuine benevolence must dwell in the heart. Love imparts to its possessor grace, propriety, and comeliness of deportment. Love illuminates the countenance and subdues the voice; it refines and elevates the entire man. It brings him into harmony with God, for it is a heavenly attribute.” —*Counsels on Health*, p. 403.

2. As we have considered the harmonies of heaven, is love therefore the source of those harmonies? 1 John 4:16

“So long as all created beings acknowledged the allegiance of love, there was perfect harmony throughout the universe of God. It was the joy of the heavenly host to fulfill the purpose of their Creator. They delighted in reflecting His glory and showing forth His praise. And while love to God was supreme, love for one another was confiding and unselfish. There was no note of discord to mar the celestial harmonies.” —*Lift Him Up*, p. 50.

LOVE AND LAW

3. God being the source of these harmonies in that He is love, how is love in His person and kingdom enunciated? Matt. 22:35-40

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

“Many religious teachers say that Christ, by His death, freed us from the law; but not all take this view. The law of God, from its very nature, is unchangeable. It is a revelation of the will and character of its Author. God is love, and His law is love. Its two great principles are love to God and man. "Love is the fulfilling of the law." The character of God is righteousness and

truth, and such is the nature of His law. The psalmist says, "Thy law is the truth"; "all thy commandments are righteousness." And the apostle Paul declares, "The law is holy, and the commandments holy, and just, and good." Such a law, an expression of the mind and will of God, must be as enduring as its Author." —*Reflecting Christ*, p. 62.

4. What further clarification is given in Scripture that love is the true keeping of the Ten Commandments? Rom. 13:8, 9, 10

“The first four of the Ten Commandments are summed up in the one great precept, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart." The last six are included in the other, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." Both these commandments are an expression of the principle of love. The first cannot be kept and the second broken, nor can the second be kept while the first is broken. When God has His rightful place on the throne of the heart, the right place will be given to our neighbor. We shall love him as ourselves. And only as we love God supremely is it possible to love our neighbor impartially.

“And since all the commandments are summed up in love to God and man, it follows that not one precept can be broken without violating this principle. Thus Christ taught His hearers that the law of God is not so many separate precepts, some of which are of great importance, while others are of small importance and may with impunity be ignored. Our Lord presents the first four and the last six commandments as a divine whole, and teaches that love to God will be shown by obedience to all His commandments.” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 607.

5. Is it a fact that the Ten Commandments were in existence before given on Mt. Sinai? Ps. 119:151, 152; 111:7, 8

“Adam and Eve, at their creation, had a knowledge of the law of God. It was printed on their hearts, and they understood its claims upon them.

“The law of God existed before man was created. It was adapted to the condition of holy beings; even angels were governed by it. After the fall, the principles of righteousness were unchanged. Nothing was taken from the law; not one of its holy precepts could be improved. And as it has existed from the beginning, so will it continue to exist throughout the ceaseless ages of eternity.” —*God’s Amazing Grace*, p. 131.

“The law of God existed before the creation of man or else Adam could not have sinned. After the transgression of Adam the principles of the law were not changed, but were definitely arranged and expressed to meet man in his fallen condition.

“The angels were governed by it [the law]. Satan fell because he transgressed the principles of God's government. After Adam and Eve were created, God made known to them His law. It was not then written, but was rehearsed to them by Jehovah.” —*The Faith I Live By*, p. 80.

LAW AMONG THE UNFALLEN

6. What is revealed regarding God’s law when Lucifer fell and rebelled? Isa. 14:12; Ezek. 28:15

“Good angels wept to hear the words of Satan and his exulting boasts. God declared that the rebellious should remain in heaven no longer. Their high and happy state had been held upon condition of obedience to the law which God had given to govern the high order of intelligences. But no provision had been made to save those who should venture to transgress His law. Satan grew bold in his rebellion, and expressed his contempt of the Creator's law. This Satan could not bear. He claimed that angels needed no law but should be left free to follow their own will, which would ever guide them right; that law was a restriction of their liberty; and that to abolish law was one great object of his standing as he did. The condition of the angels, he thought,

needed improvement. Not so the mind of God, who had made laws and exalted them equal to Himself. The happiness of the angelic host consisted in their perfect obedience to law. Each had his special work assigned him, and until Satan rebelled, there had been perfect order and harmonious action in heaven” —*The Story of Redemption*, p. 18.

“From the first, the great controversy had been upon the law of God. Satan had sought to prove that God was unjust, that His law was faulty, and that the good of the universe required it to be changed. In attacking the law, he aimed to overthrow the authority of its Author.” —*The Faith I Live By*, p. 80.

7. Is sweet relationship revealed when submission to the law of love is restored? Rev. 12:7, 8, 9, 12 (first part); Prov. 22:10

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

8. Outside of planet earth, is there a revelation of perfect relationships? Neh. 9:6

“God has worlds upon worlds that are obedient to His law. These worlds are conducted with reference to the glory of the Creator. As the inhabitants of

these worlds see the great price that has been paid to ransom man, they are filled with amazement.

“The Lord has given me a view of other worlds. Wings were given me, and an angel attended me from the city to a place that was bright and glorious. The grass of the place was living green, and the birds there warbled a sweet song. The inhabitants of the place were of all sizes; they were noble, majestic, and lovely. They bore the express image of Jesus, and their countenances beamed with holy joy, expressive of the freedom and happiness of the place.” —*Maranatha*, p. 368.

MEDITATION

“No voices of contention mar the sweet and perfect peace of heaven. Its inhabitants know no sorrow, no grief, no tears. All is in perfect harmony, in perfect order and perfect bliss.

“Heaven is a home where sympathy is alive in every heart, expressed in every look. Love reigns there. There are no jarring elements, no discord or contentions or war of words.” —*Heaven*, p. 141.

Entrance of Disharmony

*Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom.
Proverbs 13:10*

OBJECTIVES

- To examine how disharmony can arise among perfect relationships.
- To explore the fall of Lucifer as revealed by Scripture and the Spirit of Prophecy.
- To come to an understanding by which we may shut out relationship destructive elements.

A PROFOUND PUZZLE

- 1. Is it possible for a breakdown of harmonious relationships to arise from within this harmony? Eccl. 10:1; Prov. 13:10**

“Self-exaltation is a dangerous element. It tarnishes everything it touches. It is the offspring of pride, and it works so ingeniously that, unless guarded against, it will take possession of the thoughts and control the actions.”

—S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 7, p. 962.

- 2. Is this question posed in regard to the entrance of disharmony into the perfect harmonious relationships of heaven? Isa. 14:12; Ezek. 28:14, 15; Ps. 55:12-14**

“It was a being of wonderful power and glory that had set himself against God. Of Lucifer the Lord says, "Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty." Ezekiel 28:12. Lucifer had been the covering cherub. He had stood in the light of God's presence. He had been the highest of all created beings, and had been foremost in revealing God's purposes to the universe.” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 758.

“Evil originated with Lucifer, who rebelled against the government of God. Before his fall he was a covering cherub, distinguished by his excellence. God made him good and beautiful, as near as possible like Himself.” —*The Faith I Live By*, p. 66.

THE REVEALED ANSWER

- 3. What answer to the puzzle as revealed already in question 1, is more so in the case of Lucifer? Ezek. 28:16 (first part); 17 (first part)**

“It was pride that caused the fall of Satan. His heart was lifted up because of his beauty. All his wisdom and glory were the gift of God; but the very gift bestowed by the generous love of God was perverted to wrong use in exalting himself, as if his glorious endowments were something that he himself had originated. At that time no pride had been before manifested, and the results of evil had not been made manifest.” —*The Signs of the Times*, Feb. 5, 1894.

“It was with Satan that self-exaltation had its origin.” —*The Review and Herald*, Oct. 22, 1895.

- 4. How did this fall of Lucifer display the source of the breakdown of the happy relationships among the angels? Rev. 12:7**

“The spirit of dissatisfaction thus kindled was doing its baleful work. While there was no open outbreak, division of feeling imperceptibly grew up among the angels. There were some who looked with favor upon Lucifer's insinuations against the government of God. Although they had heretofore been in perfect harmony with the order which God had established, they were now discontented and unhappy because they could not penetrate His unsearchable counsels; they were dissatisfied with His purpose in exalting Christ. These stood ready to second Lucifer's demand for equal authority with the Son of God. But angels who were loyal and true maintained the wisdom and justice of the divine decree and endeavored to reconcile this disaffected being to the will of God. Christ was the Son of God; He had been one with Him before the angels were called into existence. He had ever stood at the right hand of the Father; His supremacy, so full of blessing to all who came under its benignant control, had not heretofore been questioned. The harmony of heaven had never been interrupted; wherefore should there now be discord? The loyal angels could see only terrible consequences from this dissension, and with earnest entreaty they counseled the disaffected ones to renounce their purpose and prove themselves loyal to God by fidelity to His government.” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 38.

THE LESSON FOR US

5. In our desire for happy relationships, what can we discern should be done to secure them, and what should we guard against?

Prov. 17:14; 16:28; 26:20-22

“Unite with your brethren in counsel. Do not, I beg of you, stand apart as a separate whole. Unify! unify! Exercise care to avoid discord and strife. Do not speak words such as I heard you speak when in the night season I was in

a council meeting at which you were present. Speak the words that Christ would speak were He in your place.” —*Notebook Leaflets Vol. 1*, p. 113.

“Through apostasy, fallen men and fallen angels are in the same confederacy, leagued to work against good. They are united in a desperate companionship. Through his evil angels, Satan contrives to form an alliance with professedly pious men, and thus he leavens the church of God. He knows that if he can induce men, as he induced the angels, to join in rebellion, under the guise of servants of God, he will have in them his most successful allies in his enterprise against heaven. Under the name of godliness, he can inspire them with his own accusing spirit, and lead them to charge God's servants with evil and guile. They are his trained detectives; their work is to create feuds, to make charges which create discord and bitterness among brethren, to set tongues in active service for Satan, to sow seeds of dissension by watching for evil, and by speaking of that which will create discord.” —*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 4*, p. 1142.

6. What are the positive attributes we need to cherish in order to nurture harmonious relationships? Eph. 4:1-3

“If the divine harmony of truth and love exists in the heart, it will shine forth in words and actions. The most careful cultivation of the outward proprieties and courtesies of life has not sufficient power to shut out all fretfulness, harsh judgment, and unbecoming speech. The spirit of genuine benevolence must dwell in the heart. Love imparts to its possessor grace, propriety, and comeliness of deportment. Love illuminates the countenance and subdues the voice; it refines and elevates the entire man. It brings him into harmony with God, for it is a heavenly attribute.” —*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 4*, p. 559.

7. Do we have other counsels that illuminate the inroads of Satan to spread discord in relationships? Prov. 17:9

“Brethren sometimes associate together for years, and they think they can trust those they know so well just as they would trust members of their own family. There is a freedom and confidence in this association which could not exist between those not of the same faith. This is very pleasant while mutual faith and brotherly love last; but let the "accuser of the brethren" gain admittance to the heart of one of these men, controlling the mind and the imagination, and jealousies are created, suspicion and envy are harbored; and he who supposed himself secure in the love and friendship of his brother, finds himself mistrusted and his motives misjudged. The false brother forgets his own human frailties, forgets his obligation to think and speak no evil lest he dishonor God and wound Christ in the person of His saints, and every defect that can be thought of or imagined is commented upon unmercifully, and the character of a brother is represented as dark and questionable.

“There is a betrayal of sacred trust. The things spoken in brotherly confidence are repeated and misrepresented; and every word, every action, however innocent and well-meaning, is scrutinized by the cold, jealous criticism of those who were thought too noble, too honorable to take the least advantage of friendly association or brotherly trust. Hearts are closed to mercy, judgment, and the love of God; and the cold, sneering, contemptuous spirit which Satan manifests toward his victim is revealed.” —*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 3*, p. 1163.

God's Restoring Effort

*The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.
Psalm 103:8*

OBJECTIVES

- To study the relationship building nature of God.
- To behold God's effort to restore Lucifer.
- To appreciate God's wisdom in dealing with discord and disruption of relationships in His realm.

GOD OF RELATIONSHIPS

1. What have we learned of God's purpose in populating His universe? Isa. 43:7

“The purpose and plan of grace existed from all eternity. Before the foundation of the world it was according to the determinate counsel of God that man should be created, endowed with power to do the divine will. But the defection of man, with all its consequences, was not hidden from the Omnipotent, and yet it did not deter Him from carrying out His eternal purpose; for the Lord would establish His throne in righteousness. God knows the end from the beginning. . . . Therefore redemption was not an afterthought . . . but an eternal purpose to be wrought out for the blessing not only of this atom of a world but for the good of all the worlds which God has created.

“The creation of the worlds, the mystery of the gospel, are for one purpose, to make manifest to all created intelligences, through nature and through Christ, the glories of the divine character. By the marvelous display of His love in giving "his only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life," the glory of God is revealed to lost humanity and to the intelligences of other worlds.” —*God’s Amazing Grace*, p. 129.

2. How is God’s glory defined? Ex. 33:18, 19; 34:6, 7

“Let brethren unite in fasting and prayer for the wisdom that God has promised to supply liberally. Make known your troubles to God. Tell Him, as did Moses, "I cannot lead this people unless Thy presence shall go with me." And then ask still more; pray with Moses, "Show me Thy glory" (Exodus 33:18). What is this glory? The character of God. This is what He proclaimed to Moses.” —*Manuscript Releases Vol. 9*, p. 141.

3. According to God’s character, how would we expect Him to deal with Lucifer’s defection? Ps. 103:8

“He was not immediately dethroned when he first ventured to indulge the spirit of discontent and insubordination, nor even when he began to present his false claim and lying representations before the loyal angels. Long was he retained in Heaven. Again and again was he offered pardon on condition of repentance and submission. Such efforts as God alone could make, were made to convince him of his error, and restore him to the path of rectitude. God would preserve the order of the heavens, and had Lucifer been willing to return to his allegiance, humble and obedient, he would have been re-

established in his office as covering cherub.” —*The Spirit of Prophecy Vol. 4*, p. 320.

LONG SUFFERING WITH LUCIFER

4. How does God manifest Himself to Lucifer? Ps. 145:8, 9; Neh. 9:17 (last half).

“In great mercy, according to His divine character, God bore long with Lucifer. [...] But such efforts as infinite love and wisdom only could devise, were made to convince him of his error. [...] Though he had left his position as covering cherub, yet if he had been willing to return to God, acknowledging the Creator's wisdom, and satisfied to fill the place appointed him in God's great plan, he would have been reinstated in his office.”
—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 39.

5. Observe the measures God took to help Lucifer. What language addressed to another case is here displayed? Hos. 11:8

“The King of the universe summoned the heavenly hosts before Him, that in their presence He might set forth the true position of His Son and show the relation He sustained to all created beings. The Son of God shared the Father's throne, and the glory of the eternal, self-existent One encircled both. About the throne gathered the holy angels, a vast, unnumbered throng--"ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands" (Revelation 5:11.), the most exalted angels, as ministers and subjects, rejoicing in the light that fell upon them from the presence of the Deity. Before the assembled inhabitants of heaven the King declared that none but Christ, the Only Begotten of God, could fully enter into His purposes, and to Him it

was committed to execute the mighty counsels of His will. The Son of God had wrought the Father's will in the creation of all the hosts of heaven; and to Him, as well as to God, their homage and allegiance were due. Christ was still to exercise divine power, in the creation of the earth and its inhabitants. But in all this He would not seek power or exaltation for Himself contrary to God's plan, but would exalt the Father's glory and execute His purposes of beneficence and love.” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 36.

6. Was Lucifer warmed by this effort of God? How may the words of another have been expressed by him? Acts 26:28

“The angels joyfully acknowledged the supremacy of Christ, and prostrating themselves before Him, poured out their love and adoration. Lucifer bowed with them, but in his heart there was a strange, fierce conflict. Truth, justice, and loyalty were struggling against envy and jealousy. The influence of the holy angels seemed for a time to carry him with them. As songs of praise ascended in melodious strains, swelled by thousands of glad voices, the spirit of evil seemed vanquished; unutterable love thrilled his entire being; his soul went out, in harmony with the sinless worshippers, in love to the Father and the Son. But again he was filled with pride in his own glory.”
—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 36.

GOD'S MANIFEST WISDOM

7. Does Scripture describe this wisdom of God? James 3:17, 18

“These words could have come only from the lips of one who had partaken of the wisdom from above. The piety of Abigail, like the fragrance of a flower, breathed out all unconsciously in face and word and action. The

Spirit of the Son of God was abiding in her soul. Her speech, seasoned with grace, and full of kindness and peace, shed a heavenly influence. Better impulses came to David, and he trembled as he thought what might have been the consequences of his rash purpose. "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God." Matthew 5:9. Would that there were many more like this woman of Israel, who would soothe the irritated feelings, prevent rash impulses, and quell great evils by words of calm and well-directed wisdom." —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 667.

8. As in the case of Abigail, what can we learn by beholding God's dealings with Lucifer? Prov. 13:14

"Politeness is cheap, but it has power to soften natures which would grow hard and rough without it. Christian politeness should reign in every household. The cultivation of a uniform courtesy, and a willingness to do by others as we would like them to do by us, would annihilate half the ills of life. The principle inculcated in the injunction, "Be ye kindly affectioned one to another," is the corner-stone of the Christian character." —*The Signs of the Times*, Nov. 29, 1877.

War in Heaven

*What could have been done more to my vineyard, that I have not done in it?
Isaiah 5:4*

OBJECTIVES

- To recognise that God had done everything to avert a final showdown in heaven.
- To learn that if we fail to restore relationships, war and destruction are the sure consequences.
- To gain the lesson that by Lucifer's stubborn resistance to the overtures of love, he became the loser.

GOD'S OVERTURES EXHAUSTED

1. What characteristic cherished by Lucifer is the source of all relationship breakdown? 1 Sam. 15:23

“Peace of mind, happiness, and heaven are sacrificed for the sake of maintaining human pride and indulging stubbornness of will.” —*The Review and Herald*, July 22, 1890.

2. How was this stubbornness displayed by Lucifer? Isa. 14:12-14

“Though he had forsaken his position as covering cherub, yet if he had been willing to return to God, acknowledging the Creator's wisdom, and satisfied to fill the place appointed him in God's great plan, he would have been reinstated in his office. But pride forbade him to submit. He persistently defended his own course, maintained that he had no need of repentance, and fully committed himself, in the great controversy, against his Maker.”

—*The Great Controversy*, p. 495.

3. What was left for God to do as He saw Lucifer stealing himself against conviction? Isa. 5:4 (first half)

“A compassionate Creator, in yearning pity for Lucifer and his followers, was seeking to draw them back from the abyss of ruin into which they were about to plunge. But His mercy was misinterpreted. Lucifer pointed to the long-suffering of God as an evidence of his own superiority, an indication that the King of the universe would yet accede to his terms. If the angels would stand firmly with him, he declared, they could yet gain all that they desired. He persistently defended his own course, and fully committed himself to the great controversy against his Maker. Thus it was that Lucifer, "the light bearer," the sharer of God's glory, the attendant of His throne, by transgression became Satan, "the adversary" of God and holy beings and the destroyer of those whom Heaven had committed to his guidance and guardianship.” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 39.

FINAL CONSEQUENCES

4. Is there any hope left when God's wisdom is repulsed? What is the sure outcome? Rev. 12:7, 8

“He [Satan] declares he cannot submit to be under Christ's command, that God's commands alone will he obey. Good angels weep to hear the words of Satan, and to see how he despises to follow the direction of Christ, their exalted and loving Commander.

“The Father decides the case of Satan, and declares that he must be turned out of heaven for his daring rebellion, and that all those who united with him in his rebellion should be turned out with him. Then there was war in heaven. Christ and His angels fought against Satan and his angels, for they were determined to remain in heaven with all their rebellion. But they prevailed not. Christ and loyal angels triumphed, and drove Satan and his rebel sympathizers from heaven.” —*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 7, p. 973.*

5. Does the rebellion in heaven display the sure inevitability of irreparable relationship decay? Eccl. 8:11, 13

“Because he was not able to insinuate his deceptions upon Christ, he determined to undermine Him by false statements and reports. War in heaven was the result, and Satan was expelled. He became Christ's most deadly foe. His constant effort was to counteract, in every possible way, His great work of saving souls.” —*This Day With God, p. 256.*

“The powers from beneath are stirred with deep intensity. War and bloodshed are the result. The moral atmosphere is poisoned with cruel, horrible doings. The spirit of strife is spreading; it abounds in every place. Many souls are being taken possession of by the spirit of fraud, or underhand dealing. Many will depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. They do not discern what spirit has taken possession of them.” —*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 8, p. 249.*

LEARNING THE LESSON

6. What can we learn from the content of this lesson subject in reference to the need to restore all relationship breeches? Matt. 5:25; James 4:1-3

7. Again, if we do not restore our relationship decay, what is the sure result? Gal. 5:14, 15

“Not having received the love of the truth, they will be taken in the delusions of the enemy; they will give heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils, and will depart from the faith. But, on the other hand, when the storm of persecution really breaks upon us, the true sheep will hear the true Shepherd's voice. Self-denying efforts will be put forth to save the lost, and many who have strayed from the fold will come back to follow the great Shepherd. The people of God will draw together and present to the enemy a united front. In view of the common peril, strife for supremacy will cease; there will be no disputing as to who shall be accounted greatest. No one of the true believers will say: "I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas." The testimony of one and all will be: "I cleave unto Christ; I rejoice in Him as my personal Saviour."” —*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 6, p. 400.*

SECTION 2

**GOD'S
RESTORATION OF
RELATIONSHIPS**

Introduction

HAVING SEEN that God has populated the universe with intelligent beings who would be able to share the glory of the relationship that existed in the Godhead, we saw that one among the angels spoiled that relationship glory. We beheld that the consequence of this disruption of harmonious relationships resulted in war among the angels.

In this second section we see God creating a new world upon a foundation of the relationship within the Godhead. Genesis 1:26, 27 tells us that they were to be created in the plural image of Godliness—a man and a woman in a similar relationship as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. They were given dominion over a mini universe of their own.

Their relationships would be tested, and sadly, in failing their test, they gave Satan their loyalty. Now God would exercise His love in using their choice to make this planet the stage upon which He would be able to demonstrate His relationship of love to the entire universe.

We will study to its end the drama in which Satan's challenge to God will be fully unveiled and his relationship disruption completely manifested. So completely will we see Satan unmasked, and together with all the witnesses of the universe, we have the privilege to behold that happy relationships come alone from God. Once and for all, the relationship decay will be understood and never again will arise in God's eternal universe.

Creation of Planet Earth

For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is. Exodus 20:11

OBJECTIVES

- To examine the revelations of the creation of planet earth.
- To discover God's character in His creation of delightful attractions to rejoice the heart of man.
- To see once again God's purpose of the creation of intelligences and their placement into the environment that delights the senses.

THE CREATION OF OUR WORLD

- 1. Before this world was created, was its foundation already in existence, and how did it appear? Gen. 1:1, 2**

“Concerning the condition of the earth "in the beginning," the Bible record says that it "was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 658.

- 2. What was in God's mind even before this foundation was brought into existence? Eph. 1:3, 4**

“God desired to bring all peoples under His merciful rule. He desired that the earth should be filled with joy and peace. He created man for happiness, and He longs to fill human hearts with the peace of heaven. He desires that the families below shall be a symbol of the great family above.” —*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 290.

“In the creation it was His purpose that the earth should be inhabited by beings whose existence would be a blessing to themselves and to one another, and an honor to their Creator.” —*Prophets and Kings*, p. 500.

3. With the above in mind, what do we see God doing? Genesis chapter 1; i.e. Ex. 20:11

“As the earth came forth from the hand of its Maker, it was exceedingly beautiful. Its surface was diversified with mountains, hills, and plains, interspersed with noble rivers and lovely lakes; but the hills and mountains were not abrupt and rugged, abounding in terrific steeps and frightful chasms, as they now do; the sharp, ragged edges of earth's rocky framework were buried beneath the fruitful soil, which everywhere produced a luxuriant growth of verdure. There were no loathsome swamps or barren deserts. Graceful shrubs and delicate flowers greeted the eye at every turn. The heights were crowned with trees more majestic than any that now exist. The air, untainted by foul miasma, was clear and healthful. The entire landscape outvied in beauty the decorated grounds of the proudest palace. The angelic host viewed the scene with delight, and rejoiced at the wonderful works of God.” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 44.

DISPLAY OF LOVE

4. How does God manifest His relationship provocations? Gen. 1:31; 2:8, 9

“The earth was clothed with beautiful verdure, while myriads of fragrant flowers of every variety and hue sprang up in rich profusion around them. Everything was tastefully and gloriously arranged. In the midst of the garden stood the tree of life, the glory of which surpassed all other trees. Its fruit looked like apples of gold and silver, and was to perpetuate immortality. The leaves contained healing properties.”

“In this garden the Lord placed trees of every variety for usefulness and beauty. There were trees laden with luxuriant fruit, of rich fragrance, beautiful to the eye, and pleasant to the taste, designed of God to be food for the holy pair. There were the lovely vines which grew upright, laden with their burden of fruit, unlike anything man had seen since the fall. The fruit was very large, and of different colors; some nearly black, some purple, red, pink and light green. This beautiful and luxuriant growth of fruit upon the branches of the vine was called grapes. They did not trail upon the ground, although not supported by trellises, but the weight of the fruit bowed them down. It was the happy labor of Adam and Eve to form beautiful bowers from the branches of the vine, and train them, forming dwellings of nature's beautiful, living trees and foliage, laden with fragrant fruit.” —*The Spirit of Prophecy Vol. 1*, pp. 26, 25.

5. Having made such beautiful scenery and provisions to delight, what shows that God delights in these things and that He loves to share these delights with creatures in His image? Gen. 1:27

“God, who created everything lovely and beautiful that the eye rests upon, is a lover of the beautiful. He shows you how He estimates true beauty.” —*Lift Him Up*, p. 305.

“The beauties of nature in the luxuriant vegetation and adornment of flowers speak to the senses of the love of God in his created works.” —*The Signs of the Times*, Dec. 11, 1879.

DECLARATION OF PURPOSE

6. Does God express His desire for us to take note of His design in creating this planet and life upon it? Isa. 40:25, 26; 45:12, 18; 43:7

“In their original perfection all created things were an expression of the thought of God. To Adam and Eve in their Eden home nature was full of the knowledge of God, teeming with divine instruction. Wisdom spoke to the eye and was received into the heart; for they communed with God in His created works. . . . The earth is now marred and defiled by sin. Yet even in its blighted state much that is beautiful remains.”

“The beauties of nature have a tongue that speaks to us without ceasing. The open heart can be impressed with the love and glory of God, as seen in the works of His hand. The listening ear can hear and understand the communications of God through the things of nature. There is a lesson in the sunbeam, and in the various objects of nature that God has presented to our view. The green fields, the lofty trees, the buds and flowers, the passing cloud, the falling rain, the babbling brook, the sun, moon, and stars in the heavens--all invite our attention and meditation.” —*The Faith I Live By*, p. 25.

7. Where else in Scripture do we discern that God seeks to communicate His relationship with us through His created works? Isa. 45:8; Ps. 19:1-4; Job 12:7-10

“Many are the ways in which God is seeking to make Himself known to us and bring us into communion with Him. Nature speaks to our senses without ceasing. The open heart will be impressed with the love and glory of God as revealed through the works of His hands. The listening ear can hear and

understand the communications of God through the things of nature. The green fields, the lofty trees, the buds and flowers, the passing cloud, the falling rain, the babbling brook, the glories of the heavens, speak to our hearts, and invite us to become acquainted with Him who made them all.”
—*Steps to Christ*, p. 85.

MEDITATION

“The beauties of nature are an expression of the love of God for human intelligences, and in the garden of Eden the existence of God was demonstrated in the objects of nature that surrounded our first parents. Every tree planted in the garden spoke to them, saying that the invisible things of God were clearly seen, being understood by the things which were made, even his eternal power and Godhead.” —*Healthful Living*, p. 288.

“That home [the home of our first parents], beautified by the hand of God Himself, was not a gorgeous palace. Men, in their pride, delight in magnificent and costly edifices, and glory in the works of their own hands; but God placed Adam in a garden. This was his dwelling. The blue heavens were its dome; the earth, with its delicate flowers and carpet of living green, was its floor; and the leafy branches of the goodly trees were its canopy. Its walls were hung with the most magnificent adornings--the handiwork of the great Master Artist.”

“The Garden of Eden was a representation of what God desired the whole earth to become, and it was His purpose that, as the human family increased in numbers, they should establish other homes . . . like the one He had given. Thus in course of time the whole earth might be occupied with homes and schools where the words and the works of God should be studied, and where the students should thus be fitted more and more fully to reflect, throughout endless ages, the light of the knowledge of His glory.” —*The Faith I Live By*, p. 250.

Relationships—God and Man

And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. Genesis 1:26

OBJECTIVES

- To examine the scriptures declaring the creation of man.
- To discern the transferal of the relationship between the members of the Godhead to humanity.
- To appreciate the qualities imparted to man by which he would mirror the activities of God in both procreation and dominion.

CREATION OF HUMANITY

1. How is it possible to comprehend the Godhead by God's expression to create man? Gen. 1:26, 27

“All heaven took a deep and joyful interest in the creation of the world and of man. Human beings were a new and distinct order. They were made "in the image of God," and it was the Creator's design that they should populate the earth. They were to live in close communion with heaven, receiving power from the Source of all power. Upheld by God, they were to live sinless lives.”

“God created man a superior being; he alone is formed in the image of God, and is capable of partaking of the divine nature, of cooperating with his Creator and executing His plans.” —*Sons and Daughters of God*, p. 7.

2. Who were active in creating man? Gen. 2:7, 21, 22; John 1:1-4; Job 33:4

“In the creation of man was manifest the agency of a personal God. When God had made man in His image, the human form was perfect in all its arrangements, but it was without life. Then a personal, self-existing God breathed into that form the breath of life, and man became a living, intelligent being. All parts of the human organism were set in action. The heart, the arteries, the veins, the tongue, the hands, the feet, the senses, the faculties of the mind, all began their work, and all were placed under law. Man became a living soul. Through Christ the Word, a personal God created man and endowed him with intelligence and power.” —*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 415.

THE DIVINE ATTRIBUTES

3. Is there another expression that depicts man being in God’s image? Eccl. 7:29 (first part)

“The Lord made man upright in the beginning. He was created with a perfectly balanced mind, the size and strength of all its organs being perfectly developed. Adam was a perfect type of man. Every quality of mind was well proportioned, each having a distinctive office, and yet all dependent one upon another for the full and proper use of any one of them.” —*Mind, Character, and Personality Vol. 2*, p. 415.

4. Observing the inter-relationship between the three members of the Godhead to constitute the combined function of God, as also the combined function of the organs of man, what other combined relationship mirrors that of the Godhead in man? Gen. 1:27; 2:20-24; 5:1, 2

“God made from the man a woman, to be a companion and helpmeet for him, to be one with him, to cheer, encourage, and bless him, and he in his turn to be her strong helper. All who enter into matrimonial relations with a holy purpose--the husband to obtain the pure affections of a woman's heart, the wife to soften and improve her husband's character and give it completeness--fulfill God's purpose for them.” —*Manuscript Releases Vol. 10*, p. 203.

“God Himself gave Adam a companion. He provided "an help meet for him"--a helper corresponding to him--one who was fitted to be his companion, and who could be one with him in love and sympathy. Eve was created from a rib taken from the side of Adam, signifying that she was not to control him as the head, nor to be trampled under his feet as an inferior, but to stand by his side as an equal, to be loved and protected by him. A part of man, bone of his bone, and flesh of his flesh, she was his second self, showing the close union and the affectionate attachment that should exist in this relation. "For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it." Ephesians 5:29. "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife; and they shall be one."” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 46.

DOMINION GIVEN

5. Having created in man His own divine attributes, do we see God entrusting him with like dominion? Gen. 1:28; Ps. 8:5-8

“Adam was crowned king in Eden. To him was given dominion over every living thing that God had created. The Lord blessed Adam and Eve with intelligence such as He had not given to any other creature. He made Adam the rightful sovereign over all the works of His hands. Man, made in the divine image, could contemplate and appreciate the glorious works of God in nature.

“Adam had themes for contemplation in the works of God in Eden, which was heaven in miniature. God did not form man merely to contemplate His glorious works; therefore, He gave him hands for labor, as well as a mind and heart for contemplation. If the happiness of man consisted in doing nothing, the Creator would not have given Adam his appointed work. Man was to find happiness in labor, as well as in meditation.” —*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 1*, p. 1082.

“Unlimited control was given them over every living thing.” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 50.

6. What was the condition upon which such dominion was delivered to man? Gen. 3:8 (first part)

“They were visited by angels, and were granted communion with their Maker, with no obscuring veil between. They were full of the vigor imparted by the tree of life, and their intellectual power was but little less than that of the angels.

“[Our first parents] were to enjoy communion with God and with holy angels; but their loyalty must be tested. Obedience, perfect and perpetual, was the condition of eternal happiness. On this condition he [man] was to have access to the tree of life.” —*Reflecting Christ*, p. 135.

7. In which other way was man given the privilege of co-operating with the capabilities of the Godhead? Gen. 1:28 (first part); 5:4; Ps. 127:3-5

“Your sons and daughters are younger members of God's family. He has committed them to your care, to train and educate for heaven.” —*The Faith I Live By*, p. 261.

“Fathers and mothers, you take the responsibility of bringing children into the world. Will you consider it is not for you to work in vain? "We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain." . . . Now this takes in Christian experience. Here is large encouragement. Here are the graces we are to receive, if we comply with the conditions. Fathers, mothers, if you are not converted, will you measure your advantages if you will comply with the conditions? . . . Your children are the Lord's property with which you have been entrusted, to bring up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.” —*The Upward Look*, p. 302.

8. Do we see that relationships are the integral item of all truth held forth by the Bible? Matt. 22:37-40

“Christ loves the heavenly beings that surround His throne; but what shall account for the great love wherewith He has loved us? We cannot understand it, but we can know it true in our own experience. And if we do hold the relation of kinship to Him, with what tenderness should we regard those who are brethren and sisters of our Lord! Should we not be quick to recognize the claims of our divine relationship? Adopted into the family of God, should we not honor our Father and our kindred?” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 327.

“We are pilgrims and strangers who are waiting, hoping, and praying for that blessed hope, the glorious appearing of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. If we believe this and bring it into our practical life, what vigorous action would this faith and hope inspire; what fervent love one for another; what careful holy living for the glory of God; and in our respect for the

recompense of the reward, what distinct lines of demarcation would be evidenced between us and the world.” —*Evangelism*, p. 220.

“We are commanded to "search the scriptures." The whole Word of God is our rule of action. We are to carry out its principles in our daily lives; there is no surer mark of Christianity than this. We must carry out the great principles of justice and mercy in our relations with one another. We must be daily cultivating those qualities that will fit us for the society of heaven. If we do these things, God becomes our surety, and promises to bless all that we undertake; and we "shall never be moved.”” —*To Be Like Jesus*, p. 170.

Test of Relationships

But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof dying thou shalt die. Genesis 2:17 (margin)

OBJECTIVES

- To examine the reason God placed the tree of knowledge of good and evil in the Garden of Eden.
- To expand on man's relationship with God.
- To understand God's wisdom in the test.

ONE TREE IN THE GARDEN

1. Having given man unlimited control and dominion over His created perfection, where did He put man? Gen. 2:7, 8, 15

“That home [the home of our first parents], beautified by the hand of God Himself, was not a gorgeous palace. Men, in their pride, delight in magnificent and costly edifices, and glory in the works of their own hands; but God placed Adam in a garden. This was his dwelling. The blue heavens were its dome; the earth, with its delicate flowers and carpet of living green, was its floor; and the leafy branches of the goodly trees were its canopy. Its walls were hung with the most magnificent adornings--the handiwork of the great Master Artist.

“It was the design of God that man should find happiness in the employment of tending the things He had created, and that his wants should be met with the fruits of the trees of the garden.” —*The Faith I Live By*, p. 250.

2. Having surrounded Adam and Eve with everything to delight the senses, do we see any restrictions placed upon them? Gen. 2:9, 16, 17

“The wonderful provision made in Eden for the holy pair was made by a God who loved them. Everything in nature was pure and undefiled. Fruits, flowers, and beautiful, lofty trees flourished in the Garden of Eden. With everything that Adam and Eve required, they were abundantly supplied.” —*Christ Triumphant*, p. 20.

“Adam and Eve were permitted to partake of every tree in the Garden save one. There was only a single prohibition. The forbidden tree was as attractive and lovely as any of the trees in the Garden. It was called the tree of knowledge, because in partaking of that tree, of which God had said, "Thou shalt not eat of it," (Genesis 2:17) they would have a knowledge of sin, an experience in disobedience.” —*That I May Know Him*, p.14.

3. What in all reality was the test in this tree to expose?

“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.

“The Lord placed man upon probation, that he might form a character of steadfast integrity for his own happiness and for the glory of his Creator. He had endowed Adam with powers of mind superior to any other creature that He had made. His mental powers were but little lower than those of the angels. He could become familiar with the sublimity and glory of nature, and understand the character of his heavenly Father in His created works. Amid the glories of Eden, everything that his eye rested upon testified of his Father's love and infinite power.

“The first moral lesson given to Adam was that of self-denial. The reins of self-government were placed in his hands. Judgment, reason, and conscience were to bear sway. "And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.” —*Confrontation*, p. 12.

GOD'S INTENTION

4. What did God intend for His relationship with man and his capacity to appreciate that relationship? John 17:21 (first part)

“So long as they remained loyal to the divine law, their capacity to know, to enjoy, and to love would continually increase. They would be constantly gaining new treasures of knowledge, discovering fresh springs of happiness, and obtaining clearer and yet clearer conceptions of the immeasurable, unfailing love of God.” —*Conflict and Courage*, p. 13.

“There we shall know even as also we are known. There the loves and sympathies that God has planted in the soul will find truest and sweetest exercise. The pure communion with holy beings, the harmonious social life

with the blessed angels and with the faithful ones of all ages, the sacred fellowship that binds together "the whole family in heaven and earth"--all are among the experiences of the hereafter." —*Education*, p. 306.

5. For that intention to be secured for eternity, how only could God achieve it? Prov. 23:26

“God does not control our minds without our consent; but every man is free to choose what power he will have to rule over him.” —*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 93.

“God might have created man without the power to transgress His law; He might have withheld the hand of Adam from touching the forbidden fruit; but in that case man would have been, not a free moral agent, but a mere automation. Without freedom of choice, his obedience would not have been voluntary, but forced. There could have been no development of character. . . . It would have been unworthy of man as an intelligent being, and would have sustained Satan's charge of God's arbitrary rule.

“God made man upright; He gave him noble traits of character, with no bias toward evil. He endowed him with high intellectual powers, and presented before him the strongest possible inducements to be true to his allegiance. Obedience, perfect and perpetual, was the condition of eternal happiness. On this condition he was to have access to the tree of life.” —*Conflict and Courage*, p. 13.

GOD'S WISDOM

6. What is the characteristic of God's wisdom when it comes to relationships? James 3:17

“The exercise of force is contrary to the principles of God's government; He desires only the service of love; and love cannot be commanded; it cannot be won by force or authority. Only by love is love awakened. To know God is to love Him...” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 22.

**7. Was the test that God placed before Adam and Eve a test of their love that would govern their relationship with God ever after?
John 14:23; 1 John 5:2, 3**

“But those who truly love God will be obedient to all his commands. Obedience is the test of love.” —*The Signs of the Times*, Oct. 22, 1894.

MEDITATION

“This present life is our time of test and trial. God placed Adam and Eve in the beautiful garden of Eden, saying to them, "Of every tree in the garden thou mayest freely eat." But there was one prohibition. "Of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it; for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die" (Genesis 2:16, 17). God wished to test and try the beings He had made, to see if they would be loyal and true to Him.” —*Sermons and Talks Vol. 1*, p. 318.

“God will test all, even as He tested Adam and Eve, to see whether they will be obedient. Our loyalty or disloyalty will decide our destiny. Since the fall of Adam, men in every age have excused themselves for sinning, charging God with their sin, saying that they could not keep His commandments. This is the insinuation Satan cast at God in heaven. But the plea, "I cannot keep the commandments," need never be presented to God; for before Him stands the Saviour, the marks of the crucifixion upon His body, a living witness that the law can be kept. It is not that men cannot keep the law, but that they will not.” —*The Review and Herald*, May 28, 1901.

Relationship Disaster

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

OBJECTIVES

- To explore the components responsible for the relationship demise between God and the human couple.
- To observe how that relationship breach affected the relationship between Adam and Eve, and male and female.
- To show that God's part toward man was not affected.

THE FALL OF MAN

- 1. How was the fall of Satan extended to the fall of man? Gen. 3:1; Rev. 12:9 (middle); 2 Cor. 11:3**

“It was by the display of supernatural power, in making the serpent his medium, that Satan caused the fall of Adam and Eve in Eden.” —*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 5*, p. 698.

- 2. Was the mind activity of Lucifer in his fall exercised again at the tree of the knowledge of good and evil? Gen. 3:4-6; Isa. 14:13, 14**

“Satan found his way into Eden and made Eve believe that she needed something more than that which God had given for her happiness, that the forbidden fruit would have a special exhilarating influence upon her body and mind, and would exalt her even to be equal with God in knowledge.”
—*Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 1, p. 565.*

“Men who imagine themselves endowed with mental powers of so high an order that they can find an explanation of all the ways and works of God, are seeking to exalt human wisdom to an equality with the divine and to glorify man as God. They are only repeating that which Satan declared to Eve in Eden: "Ye shall be as gods." Satan fell because of his ambition to be equal with God. He desired to enter into the divine counsels and purposes, from which he was excluded by his own inability, as a created being, to comprehend the wisdom of the Infinite One. It was this ambitious pride that led to his rebellion, and by the same means he seeks to cause the ruin of man.” —*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 5, p. 702.*

**3. Did the tree of the knowledge of good and evil have anything to do with the human relationship with God, and what was the effect of partaking of the fruit thereof upon their relationship toward God?
Gen. 3:6-8**

“Even when our first parents, in their innocence, were placed in the garden of Eden, God did not give them unlimited control. One prohibition was given to test their loyalty and obedience. But they saw that the forbidden tree was beautiful and attractive, and, as they vainly imagined, "to be desired to make one wise." They appropriated what God had reserved to himself, and his curse fell upon them and upon the earth.” —*The Review and Herald, May 16, 1882.*

“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.

MULTIPLE RELATIONSHIP IMPACT

4. What caused Adam to eat of the fruit? Gen. 3:6 (last half); 1 Tim. 2:14

“Adam understood that his companion had transgressed the command of God, disregarded the only prohibition laid upon them as a test of their fidelity and love. There was a terrible struggle in his mind. He mourned that he had permitted Eve to wander from his side. But now the deed was done; he must be separated from her whose society had been his joy. How could he have it thus? Adam had enjoyed the companionship of God and of holy angels. He had looked upon the glory of the Creator. He understood the high destiny opened to the human race should they remain faithful to God. Yet all these blessings were lost sight of in the fear of losing that one gift which in his eyes outvalued every other. Love, gratitude, loyalty to the Creator--all were overborne by love to Eve. She was a part of himself, and he could not endure the thought of separation. . . . He resolved to share her fate; if she must die, he would die with her. After all, he reasoned, might not the words of the wise serpent be true? Eve was before him, as beautiful and apparently as innocent as before this act of disobedience. She expressed greater love for him than before. No sign of death appeared in her, and he decided to brave the consequences. He seized the fruit and quickly ate.” —*Conflict and Courage*, p. 16.

5. In choosing his relationship with his wife over that of God and angels, did this at length contribute to a happy relationship with his wife? Gen. 3:9-12

“They now began to see the true character of their sin. Adam reproached his companion for her folly in leaving his side and permitting herself to be deceived by the serpent; but they both flattered themselves that He who had given them so many evidences of His love, would pardon this one transgression, or that they would not be subjected to so dire a punishment as they had feared.”

“Adam could neither deny nor excuse his sin; but instead of manifesting penitence, he endeavored to cast the blame upon his wife, and thus upon God Himself: “The woman whom Thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.” He who, from love to Eve, had deliberately chosen to forfeit the approval of God, his home in Paradise, and an eternal life of joy, could now, after his fall, endeavor to make his companion, and even the Creator Himself, responsible for the transgression. So terrible is the power of sin.” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 57.

6. Did the sin of Eve have an impact upon her relationship with Adam, and how did this impact all male and female relationships thereafter? Gen. 3:16; 1 Cor. 11:3; Col. 3:18

“Eve was told of the sorrow and pain that must henceforth be her portion. And the Lord said, “Thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.” In the creation, God had made her the equal of Adam. Had they remained obedient to God--in harmony with His great law of love--they would ever have been in harmony with each other; but sin had brought discord, and now their union could be maintained and harmony preserved only by submission on the part of the one or the other. Eve had been the first in transgression; and she had fallen into temptation by separating from her companion, contrary to the divine direction. It was by her solicitation that Adam sinned, and she was now placed in subjection to her husband. Had the principles enjoined in the law of God been cherished by the fallen race, this sentence, though growing out of the results of sin, would have proved a blessing to them; but man's abuse of the supremacy thus given him has too

often rendered the lot of woman very bitter, and made her life a burden.”
—*The Adventist Home*, p. 115.

7. What effect was made on all relationships since the fall of Adam and Eve? Rom. 3:10, 16, 17; Eph. 2:3

“God is the life-giver. From the beginning, all His laws were ordained to life. But sin broke in upon the order that God had established, and discord followed. So long as sin exists, suffering and death are inevitable. It is only because the Redeemer has borne the curse of sin in our behalf, that man can hope to escape, in his own person, its dire results.” —*God’s Amazing Grace*, p. 73.

“To transgress His law, physical, mental, or moral, is to place one’s self out of harmony with the universe, to introduce discord, anarchy, ruin.”
—*Education*, p. 99.

GOD’S SIDE

8. Although man has lost relationship bonds with God, does God still have an interest in relationship with man? Gen. 3:8, 9, 1 John 4:10

“Not because we first loved Him did Christ love us; but "while we were yet sinners" He died for us. He does not treat us according to our desert. Although our sins have merited condemnation, He does not condemn us. Year after year He has borne with our weakness and ignorance, with our ingratitude and waywardness. Notwithstanding our wanderings, our hardness of heart, our neglect of His Holy Word, His hand is stretched out still.” —*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 161.

God's Plan to Restore

And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.
Genesis 3:15

OBJECTIVES

- To reflect upon God's refusal to lose His intimate relationship with man.
- To allow Inspiration to reveal the plan that existed before there ever was the creation of beings in God's image.
- To observe the function of this plan when Adam and Eve fell.

GOD'S TENACIOUS LOVE

1. What is God's character when a relationship disaster strikes any of His intelligent creatures? 1 Cor. 13:7; Hos. 11:8, 9; Jer. 31:1

"The Lord Himself declares His character that Satan has malignantly set in a false light. He has revealed Himself as "The Lord, The Lord God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin." What stronger or more tender language could have been employed than He has chosen in which to express His love toward us? He declares: "Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee." —*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 5, p. 633.*

2. Did God withdraw from Adam and Eve because they had broken their relationship with Him? Gen. 3:8, 9. What do we see Him doing instead? Gen. 3:15

“But man was not abandoned to the results of the evil he had chosen. In the sentence pronounced upon Satan was given an intimation of redemption. "I will put enmity between thee and the woman," God said, "and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." Genesis 3:15. This sentence, spoken in the hearing of our first parents, was to them a promise. Before they heard of the thorn and the thistle, of the toil and sorrow that must be their portion, or of the dust to which they must return, they listened to words that could not fail of giving them hope. All that had been lost by yielding to Satan could be regained through Christ.”
—*Education*, p. 27.

THE LONGSTANDING PLAN

3. Why did God come up so quickly with such an announcement of hope immediately at the fall? 1 Pet. 1:18-20

“The plan for our redemption was not an afterthought, a plan formulated after the fall of Adam. It was a revelation of "the mystery which hath been kept in silence through times eternal" (Romans 16:25, R.V.). It was an unfolding of the principles that from eternal ages have been the foundation of God's throne. . . . God did not ordain that sin should exist, but He foresaw its existence, and made provision to meet the terrible emergency. So great was His love for the world, that He covenanted to give His only-begotten

Son, "that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

“As soon as there was sin, there was a Saviour.” —*God's Amazing Grace*, p. 23.

“God has made every provision that His purpose in the creation of man shall not be frustrated by Satan. After Adam and Eve brought death into the world by their disobedience, a costly sacrifice was provided for the human race. A higher value than that they originally possessed was placed upon them. By giving Christ, His only-begotten Son, as a ransom for the world, God gave all heaven.” —*Selected Messages Book 1*, p. 299.

4. When did God envisage the event of the fall and provided a plan of restoration for the human race? Eph. 1:3, 4 Rom. 16:25

“God is love, God is life. It is the prerogative of God to redeem, reconstruct, and restore. Before the foundation of the world, the Son of God was given to die, and redemption is the mystery that was kept in silence through times eternal – Romans 16:25 RV.” —*In Heavenly Places*, p. 291.

“The incarnation of Christ is a mystery. The union of divinity with humanity is a mystery indeed, hidden with God, "even the mystery which hath been hid from ages." It was kept in eternal silence by Jehovah, and was first revealed in Eden, by the prophecy that the Seed of the woman should bruise the serpent's head, and that he should bruise His heel.

“To present to the world this mystery that God kept in silence for eternal ages before the world was created, before man was created, was the part that Christ was to act in the work He entered upon when He came to this earth. And this wonderful mystery, the incarnation of Christ and the atonement that He made, must be declared to every son and daughter of Adam. His sufferings perfectly fulfilled the claims of the law of God.” —*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 6*, p. 1082.

5. Are there any other words of Inspiration revealing His plan from eternity? Eph. 3:10, 11

“The salvation of the human race has ever been the object of the councils of heaven. The covenant of mercy was made before the foundation of the world. It has existed from all eternity, and is called the everlasting covenant. So surely as there never was a time when God was not, so surely there never was a moment when it was not the delight of the eternal mind to manifest His grace to humanity.” —*The Faith I Live By*, p. 76.

“The covenant of grace is not a new truth, for it existed in the mind of God from all eternity. This is why it is called the everlasting covenant.” —*The Faith I Live By*, p. 77.

“Angelic perfection failed in heaven. Human perfection failed in Eden, the paradise of bliss. All who wish for security in earth or heaven must look to the Lamb of God. The plan of salvation, making manifest the justice and love of God, provides an eternal safeguard against defection in unfallen worlds, as well as among those who shall be redeemed by the blood of the Lamb.” —*Our High Calling*, p. 45.

EXPLORATION OF THE PLAN

6. Does Inspiration reveal the councils of heaven in reference to the drafting of this plan? Col. 1:26, 27; 1 Cor. 2:7

“In the councils of heaven, before the world was created, the Father and the Son covenanted together that if man proved disloyal to God, Christ, one with the Father, would take the place of the transgressor, and suffer the penalty of justice that must fall upon him.” —*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 6*, p. 1070.

“In the councils of heaven the cross was ordained as the means of atonement. This was to be God's means of winning men to Him.” —*Manuscript Releases Vol. 5*, p. 114.

7. Were there any other principles considered in this council of heaven? 2 Thess. 2:6-10

“In the councils of heaven it was decided that principles must be acted upon which would not at once destroy Satan's power, for it was His purpose to place things upon an eternal basis of security. Time must be given for Satan to develop the principles which were the foundation of his government. The heavenly universe must see the principles which Satan declared were superior to God's principles, worked out. God's order must be contrasted with the new order after Satan's devising. The corrupting principles of Satan's rule must be revealed. The principles of righteousness expressed in God's law must be demonstrated as unchangeable, eternal, perfect.”
—*Manuscript Releases Vol. 18*, p. 361.

MEDITATION

☞ Considering the relationship disaster Adam and Eve fell into, let us marvel over God's persistent love.

“Having undertaken the work of man's redemption, the Father would spare nothing, however dear, which was essential for the completion of His work. He would make opportunities for men; He would pour upon them His blessings; He would heap favor upon favor, gift upon gift, until the whole treasury of heaven was open to those whom He came to save. Having collected all the riches of the universe, and laid open all the resources of His divine nature, God gave them all for the use of man. They were His free gift. What an ocean of love is circulating, like a divine atmosphere, around the world! What manner of love is this, that the eternal God should adopt human nature in the person of His Son, and carry the same into the highest heaven!”
—*That I May Know Him*, p. 19.

“It seems almost too good to believe that the Father can and does love any member of the human family as He loves His Son. But we have the assurance that He does, and this assurance should bring joy to every heart, awakening the highest reverence, and calling forth unspeakable gratitude. God's love is not uncertain and unreal, but a living reality.” —*Manuscript Releases Vol. 18*, p. 332.

The Plan Unfolds

Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them. Genesis 3:21

OBJECTIVES

- To study the progressive actions and utterances of God in their connection with Genesis 3:15.
- To understand the significance of God providing coats of skins for Adam and Eve.
- To comprehend the provision of the cross in Old Testament worship.

UNFOLDING PROVISIONS

- 1. What did God's condemnation upon the serpent encompass?
Gen. 3:14, 15; Rev. 12:9**

“To man the first intimation of redemption was communicated in the sentence pronounced upon Satan in the garden. The Lord declared, "I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." This sentence, uttered in the hearing of our first parents, was to them a promise. While it foretold war between man and Satan, it declared that the power of the great adversary would finally be broken. . . . Adam and his companion were assured that notwithstanding their great sin, they were not to be abandoned to the control of Satan. The Son of God had offered to atone, with His own life, for their transgression. A period of probation would be granted them, and through

repentance, and faith in Christ, they might again become the children of God.

“The instant man accepted the temptations of Satan, and did the very things God had said he should not do, Christ, the Son of God, stood between the living and the dead, saying, "Let the punishment fall on Me. I will stand in man's place. He shall have another chance.” —*The Faith I Live By*, p. 75.

2. Who was the woman’s seed and to what event did the declaration of God point? Gal. 3:16

“Christ was nailed to the cross, but He gained the victory. The whole force of evil gathered itself together in an effort to destroy Him who was the Light of the world, the Truth that makes men wise unto salvation. But no advantage was gained by this confederacy. With every advance move, Satan was bringing nearer his eternal ruin. Christ was indeed enduring the contradiction of sinners against Himself. But every pang of suffering that He bore helped tear away the foundation of the enemy's kingdom. Satan bruised Christ's heel, but Christ bruised Satan's head. Through death the Saviour destroyed him that had the power of death. In the very act of grasping his prey, death was vanquished; for by dying, Christ brought to light life and immortality through the gospel.” —*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 7*, p. 924.

3. Besides Christ, who does the woman’s seed include, and does it also bruise the serpent’s head? Rom. 16:20

“The Lord said concerning Satan, that old serpent, that he should bruise the heel of Christ, but Christ would bruise his head. Thank God, he cannot touch

the head. “With the mind I myself serve the law of God,” said the apostle. The mind and heart are enlisted in the service of Christ, while Satan has enlisted humans and fallen angels to join in his company to league against good. They can bruise only the heel, while in the very act, when Satan seems to have triumphed in putting them to torture and death, the faithful who stand in defense of the law of Jehovah are wounding the head of the great rebel.”

—*Christ Triumphant*, p. 29.

“The prediction given in Eden refers in a special manner to Christ, and to all who accept and confess Him as the only begotten Son of God. Christ has pledged Himself to engage in the conflict with the prince and power of darkness and bruise the serpent's head, and all who are the sons of God are His chosen ones, His soldiers, to war against principalities and powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. It is an unwearied conflict of which there is to be no end, until Christ shall come the second time without sin unto salvation to destroy him who has destroyed so many souls through his masterly deceiving power.” —*Manuscript Releases Vol. 9*, p. 108.

COATS OF SKIN

4. In providing a covering for their nakedness, what did God have to do? Gen. 3:21; Ezek. 16:8

5. How did these coats symbolise the further unfolding of the plan of redemption? Ps. 85:2; Eph. 5:2

“A fig-leaf apron will never cover our nakedness. Sin must be taken away, and the garment of Christ's righteousness must cover the transgressor of

God's law. Then when the Lord looks upon the believing sinner, He sees, not the fig leaves covering him, but Christ's own robe of righteousness, which is perfect obedience to the law of Jehovah. Man has hidden his nakedness, not under a covering of fig leaves, but under the robe of Christ's righteousness." —*The Upward Look*, p. 378.

6. Did this provision repair the relationship rift in the heart of Adam and Eve?

“This ceremonial offering, ordained of God, was to be a perpetual reminder to Adam of his guilt, and also a penitential acknowledgment of his sin. This act of taking life gave Adam a deeper and more perfect sense of his transgression, which nothing less than the death of God's dear Son could expiate. He marveled at the infinite goodness and matchless love which would give such a ransom to save the guilty. As Adam was slaying the innocent victim, it seemed to him that he was shedding the blood of the Son of God by his own hand. He knew that if he had remained steadfast to God, and true to His holy law, there would have been no death of beast nor of man. Yet in the sacrificial offerings, pointing to the great and perfect offering of God's dear Son, there appeared a star of hope to illuminate the dark and terrible future, and relieve it of its utter hopelessness and ruin.” —*The Story of Redemption*, p. 50.

“But Heaven pitied man, and the plan of salvation was devised. When the curse was pronounced upon the race, in connection with the curse there was given the promise of pardon through a Saviour who was to come. This promise was the star of hope that lighted up the gloom, that, like the pall of death, hung over the future of man, and of the world which was given him as his dominion. The gospel was first preached to Adam and Eve in Eden. They sincerely repented of their guilt, believed the promise of God, and were saved from utter ruin.” —*The Signs of the Times*, Apr. 22, 1886.

OLD TESTAMENT WORSHIP

7. How did believers who appreciated the mercy of God as Adam and Eve did, keep this appreciation alive? Heb. 11:4-8

“Satan led men into sin, and the plan of redemption was put in operation. For four thousand years, Christ was working for man's uplifting, and Satan for his ruin and degradation. And the heavenly universe beheld it all.”
—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 759.

“Christ's death and resurrection completed His covenant. Before this time, it was revealed through types and shadows, which pointed to the great offering to be made by the world's Redeemer, offered in promise for the sins of the world. Anciently believers were saved by the same Saviour as now, but it was a God veiled. They saw God's mercy in figures. The promise given to Adam and Eve in Eden was the gospel to a fallen race. The promise was made that the seed of the woman should bruise the serpent's head, and it should bruise His heel. Christ's sacrifice is the glorious fulfillment of the whole Jewish economy. The Sun of Righteousness has risen. Christ our righteousness is shining in brightness upon us.” —*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 7*, p. 932.

8. With what fervency did these believers pursue their relationship with God? Heb. 11:13-16; 1 Pet. 1:10-12

“That God who walked with Enoch was our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. He was the light of the world then just as He is now. Those who lived then were not without teachers to instruct them in the path of life; for Noah and Enoch were Christians. The gospel is given in precept in Leviticus. Implicit obedience is required now, as then. How essential it is that we understand the importance of this word!” —*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 6*, p. 392.

MEDITATION

“The scheme of redemption far exceeds the comprehension of the human mind. The great condescension on the part of God is a mystery that is beyond

our fathoming. The greatness of the plan cannot be fully comprehended, nor could infinite Wisdom devise a plan that would surpass it. It could only be successful by the clothing of divinity with humanity, by Christ becoming man, and suffering the wrath which sin has made because of the transgression of God's law. Through this plan the great, the dreadful God can be just, and yet be the justifier of all who believe in Jesus, and who receive Him as their personal Saviour. This is the heavenly science of redemption, of saving men from eternal ruin, and can be carried out only through the incarnation of the Son of God in humanity, through His triumph over sin and death, and in seeking to fathom this plan all finite intelligences are baffled." —*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 5, p. 392.*

Interim Relationships

*But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.
1 Corinthians 11:3*

OBJECTIVES

- To reveal that before God could fully restore broken relationships back to original ideals, He needed to introduce interim relationships.
- To explore these interim relationships.
- To discover how these relationships would serve to restore God's original ideal.

TEMPORARY RELATIONSHIP MEASURES

- 1. Do we discern a restorative relationship measure in the curse placed upon the serpent? Gen. 3:15; Gal. 3:16; Matt. 1:23 i.e. verse 21**

- 2. Into what relationship position toward sinful man was Christ placed, and what position did He assume toward God? 1 Cor. 11:3; Eph. 5:23 (last part); John 14:28 i.e. Phil. 2:6, 7**

“Christ’s divine soul was exercised with infinite pity for the fallen pair. As their wretched, helpless condition came up before Him, and as He saw that by transgression of God’s law they had fallen under the power and control of the prince of darkness, He proposed the only means that could be acceptable with God, that would give them another trial, and place them again on probation. Christ consented to leave His honor, His kingly authority, His glory with the Father, and humble Himself to humanity, and engage in contest with the mighty prince of darkness, in order to redeem man. Through His humiliation and poverty Christ would identify Himself with the weaknesses of the fallen race, and by firm obedience show that man might redeem Adam’s disgraceful failure, and by humble obedience regain lost Eden.” —*Confrontation*, p. 17.

“All things proclaimed the urgent necessity on the earth of a Teacher sent from God—a Teacher in whom divinity and humanity would be united. It was essential that Christ should appear in human form, and stand at the head of the human race, to uplift fallen human beings. Thus only could God be revealed to the world.” —*Reflecting Christ*, p. 16.

3. Was the man also placed into a new relationship to his wife and the wife to him? Gen. 3:16; Eph. 5:22, 23

“Eve was told of the sorrow and pain that must henceforth be her portion. And the Lord said, “Thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.” In the creation, God had made her the equal of Adam. Had they remained obedient to God--in harmony with His great law of love--they would ever have been in harmony with each other; but sin had brought discord, and now their union could be maintained and harmony preserved only by submission on the part of the one or the other. Eve had been the first in transgression; and she had fallen into temptation by separating from her companion, contrary to the divine direction. It was by her solicitation that Adam sinned, and she was now placed in subjection to her husband. Had the principles enjoined in the law of God been cherished by the fallen race, this sentence, though growing out of the results of sin, would have proved a

blessing to them; but man's abuse of the supremacy thus given him has too often rendered the lot of woman very bitter, and made her life a burden.

“Eve had been perfectly happy by her husband's side in her Eden home; but, like restless modern Eves, she was flattered with the hope of entering a higher sphere than that which God had assigned her. In attempting to rise above her original position, she fell far below it. A similar result will be reached by all who are unwilling to take up cheerfully their life duties in accordance with God's plan.” —*The Adventist Home*, p. 115.

GOD'S INTERIM PLAN

4. If the man would submit to the headship of Christ, would his relationship with his wife be of value to her? Eph. 5:25-28

“The Lord Jesus has not been correctly represented in His relation to the church by many husbands in their relation to their wives, for they do not keep the way of the Lord. They declare that their wives must be subject to them in everything. But it was not the design of God that the husband should have control, as head of the house, when he himself does not submit to Christ. He must be under the rule of Christ that he may represent the relation of Christ to the church. If he is a coarse, rough, boisterous, egotistical, harsh, and overbearing man, let him never utter the word that the husband is the head of the wife, and that she must submit to him in everything; for he is not the Lord, he is not the husband in the true significance of the term.

“Husbands should study the pattern and seek to know what is meant by the symbol presented in Ephesians, the relation Christ sustains to the church. The husband is to be as a Saviour in his family. Will he stand in his noble, God-given manhood, ever seeking to uplift his wife and children? Will he breathe about him a pure, sweet atmosphere? Will he not as assiduously cultivate the love of Jesus, making it an abiding principle in his home, as he will assert his claims to authority?” —*The Adventist Home*, p. 117.

5. If the wife has a saving relationship with Jesus, how will she benefit her husband in God’s plan? Col. 3:18; 1 Cor. 7:13, 14

“God made from the man a woman, to be a companion and helpmeet for him, to be one with him, to cheer, encourage, and bless him, he in his turn to be her strong helper. All who enter into matrimonial relations with a holy purpose—the husband to obtain the pure affections of a woman’s heart, the wife to soften and improve her husband’s character and give it completeness—fulfill God’s purpose for them.”

“We must have the Spirit of God, or we can never have harmony in the home. The wife, if she has the spirit of Christ, will be careful of her words; she will control her spirit, she will be submissive, and yet will not feel that she is a bonds slave, but a companion to her husband. If the husband is a servant of God, he will not lord it over his wife; he will not be arbitrary and exacting. We cannot cherish home affection with too much care; for the home, if the Spirit of the Lord dwells there, is a type of heaven. . . . If one errs, the other will exercise Christlike forbearance and not draw coldly away.” —*The Adventist Home*, pp. 99, 118.

6. How may the husband’s godly headship over his wife and the wife’s submission to Christ benefit the salvation of their children? Prov. 22:6

“The best way to educate children to respect their father and mother is to give them the opportunity of seeing the father offering kindly attentions to the mother and the mother rendering respect and reverence to the father. It is by beholding love in their parents that children are led to obey the fifth

commandment and to heed the injunction, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right."

"The home that is beautified by love, sympathy, and tenderness is a place that angels love to visit and where God is glorified. The influence of a carefully guarded Christian home in the years of childhood and youth is the surest safeguard against the corruptions of the world. In the atmosphere of such a home the children will learn to love both their earthly parents and their heavenly Father." —*Mind, Character, and Personality Vol. 1*, p. 216.

7. Where a mother is so benefited by a godly husband, what kind of work will she be enabled to do for her children? Eph. 6:4

"When the mother has gained the confidence of her children and taught them to love and obey her, she has given them the first lesson in the Christian life. They must love and trust and obey their Saviour as they love and trust and obey their parents. The love which in faithful care and right training the parent manifests for the child faintly mirrors the love of Jesus for His faithful people." —*Mind, Character, and Personality Vol. 1*, p. 216.

"There is a God above, and the light and glory from His throne rests upon the faithful mother as she tries to educate her children to resist the influence of evil. No other work can equal hers in importance. She has not, like the artist, to paint a form of beauty upon canvas, nor, like the sculptor, to chisel it from marble. She has not, like the author, to embody a noble thought in words of power, nor, like the musician, to express a beautiful sentiment in melody. It is hers, with the help of God, to develop in a human soul the likeness of the divine." —*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 377.

8. Can home therefore be a heaven on earth, and when God has restored all things to original relationship what is a family on earth a symbol of? Matt. 22:30

“Parents, make your home a little heaven on earth. You can do this, if you so choose. You can make home so pleasant and cheerful that it will be the most attractive place on earth to your children. Let them receive all the blessings of the household. You can so relate yourselves to God that His Spirit will abide in your home. Come close to the bleeding side of the Man of Calvary. Those who are partakers with Him in His sufferings will at last be partakers with Him in His glory.” —*Heaven*, p. 168.

“The grace of Christ, and this alone, can make this institution what God designed it should be--an agent for the blessing and uplifting of humanity. And thus the families of earth, in their unity and peace and love, may represent the family of heaven.” —*The Adventist Home*, p. 100.

“God designs that the families of earth shall be a symbol of the family in heaven. Christian homes, established and conducted in accordance with God's plan, are among His most effective agencies for the formation of Christian character and for the advancement of His work.” —*God's Amazing Grace*, p. 288.

Two Classes Arise

And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering: but unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wrath, and his countenance fell. Genesis 4:4, 5

OBJECTIVES

- To study the difference between Cain and Abel.
- To observe the arising of the serpent's seed in its antagonism towards the woman's seed.
- To identify the core motive that differentiates the two classes of people.

CAIN AND ABEL

- 1. Is it possible for antagonism against God to arise from among the children of believing, God-fearing parents such as Adam and Eve? Gen. 4:1, 2, 16**

“So far as birth and religious instruction were concerned, these brothers were equal. Both were sinners, and both acknowledged the claims of God to reverence and worship. To outward appearance their religion was the same up to a certain point, but beyond this the difference between the two was great.” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 72.

- 2. How did this antagonism develop? Gen. 4:3-5**

“When Cain saw that his offering was rejected, he was angry with the Lord and with Abel...”

“The two brothers erected their altars alike, and each brought an offering. Abel presented a sacrifice from the flock, in accordance with the Lord’s directions. “And the Lord had respect unto Abel and to his offering.” Fire flashed from heaven and consumed the sacrifice. But Cain, disregarding the Lord’s direct and explicit command, presented only an offering of fruit. There was no token from heaven to show that it was accepted. Abel pleaded with his brother to approach God in the divinely prescribed way, but his entreaties only made Cain the more determined to follow his own will. As the eldest, he felt above being admonished by his brother, and despised his counsel.” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 73, 71.

3. Was there a more deep-seated reason for this antagonism? Jer. 6:10

“The sacrifice of Cain was rejected because it was not an offering that acknowledged the sacrifice of Christ for the sins of the world. In Cain’s offering there was no confession of sin, no acknowledgment that he was in need of a Saviour.” —*The Signs of the Times*, Dec. 11, 1893.

“Cain came before God with murmuring and infidelity in his heart in regard to the promised sacrifice and the necessity of the sacrificial offerings. His gift expressed no penitence for sin. He felt, as many now feel, that it would be an acknowledgment of weakness to follow the exact plan marked out by God, of trusting his salvation wholly to the atonement of the promised Saviour. He chose the course of self-dependence. He would come in his own merits. He would not bring the lamb, and mingle its blood with his offering, but would present his fruits, the products of his labor. He presented his offering as a favor done to God, through which he expected to secure the divine approval. Cain obeyed in building an altar, obeyed in bringing a

sacrifice; but he rendered only a partial obedience. The essential part, the recognition of the need of a Redeemer, was left out.” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 72.

4. What did his antagonism lead to? Gen. 3:8

“But instead of acknowledging his sin, Cain continued to complain of the injustice of God and to cherish jealousy and hatred of Abel. He angrily reproached his brother, and attempted to draw him into controversy concerning God's dealings with them. In meekness, yet fearlessly and firmly, Abel defended the justice and goodness of God. He pointed out Cain's error, and tried to convince him that the wrong was in himself. He pointed to the compassion of God in sparing the life of their parents when He might have punished them with instant death, and urged that God loved them, or He would not have given His Son, innocent and holy, to suffer the penalty which they had incurred. All this caused Cain's anger to burn the hotter. Reason and conscience told him that Abel was in the right; but he was enraged that one who had been wont to heed his counsel should now presume to disagree with him, and that he could gain no sympathy in his rebellion. In the fury of his passion he slew his brother.” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 74.

TWO CLASSES OF WORSHIPPERS

5. Can we discern in this story the beginning of two classes of worshippers? Gen. 4:3

“In the case of Cain and Abel we have a type of two classes that will exist in the world till the close of time; and this type is worthy of close study.

There is a marked difference in the characters of these two brothers, and the same difference is seen in the human family today. Cain represents those who carry out the principles and works of Satan, by worshiping God in a way of their own choosing. Like the leader whom they follow, they are willing to render partial obedience, but not entire submission to God. Man, in the pride of his heart, would like to believe that he can confer some favor upon God; that our heavenly Father may be the receiver, and not always the giver. But God will not be bribed. He says: "Every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills." "If I were hungry, I would not tell thee; for the world is mine, and the fullness thereof." Man has nothing to give that he has not first received from God.

“The Cain class of worshipers includes by far the largest number; for every false religion that has been invented has been based on the Cain principle, that man can depend upon his own merits and righteousness for salvation.”
—*The Signs of the Times*, Dec. 23, 1886.

6. What is the relationship between these two classes to the very end? Gal. 4:29; John 15:18-20

“Abel did not try to force Cain to obey God’s command. It was Cain, inspired by Satan and filled with wrath, who used force. Furious because he could not compel Abel to disobey God and because God had accepted Abel’s offering and refused his, which did not recognize the Saviour, Cain killed his brother.

“The two parties represented by Cain and Abel will exist till the close of this earth’s history. The well-doer, the obedient, does not war against the transgressor of God’s holy law. But those who do not respect the law of God oppress and persecute other people. They follow their leader, who is an accuser of God and of those who are made perfect through obedience. . . . The spirit that leads people to accuse, condemn, imprison, and put to death other people has waxed strong in our world. It is this spirit that always works in the children of disobedience.” —*Christ Triumphant*, p. 35.

“Cain and Abel represent the two classes, the righteous and the wicked, the believers and unbelievers, which should exist from the fall of man to the second coming of Christ. Cain slaying his brother Abel, represents the wicked who will be envious of the righteous, and will hate them because they are better than themselves. They will be jealous of the righteous, and will persecute and put them to death because their right-doing condemns their sinful course.” —*The Signs of the Times*, Feb. 6, 1879.

CORE DIFFERENCE

7. Can we identify the central principle which separates these two classes? John 3:19-21; 1 Cor. 2:14

“Cain and Abel represent two classes that will exist in the world till the close of time. One class avail themselves of the appointed sacrifice for sin; the other venture to depend upon their own merits; theirs is a sacrifice without the virtue of divine mediation, and thus it is not able to bring man into favor with God. It is only through the merits of Jesus that our transgressions can be pardoned.” —*Conflict and Courage*, p. 25.

8. As the two classes are both sinners, how can the class represented by Abel receive courage when they struggle with their sense of condemnation? Ps. 37:23, 24; Prov. 24:16

“There always have been and always will be two classes on the earth to the end of time--the believers in Jesus, and those who reject Him. Sinners, however wicked, abominable, and corrupt, by faith in Him will be purified, made clean, through the doing of His word. . . . Those who reject Christ and refuse to believe the truth will be filled with bitterness against those who

accept Jesus as a personal Saviour. But those who receive Christ are melted and subdued by the manifestation of His love and His humiliation, suffering, and death in their behalf.” —*My Life Today*, p. 77.

“The sin of Moses was not premeditated. He was surprised into it. He took to himself the murmuring of the people when they were really murmuring against God.” —*Manuscript Releases Vol. 10*, p. 159.

“How careful is the Lord Jesus to give no occasion for a soul to despair. How He fences about the soul from Satan's fierce attacks. If through manifold temptations we are surprised or deceived into sin, He does not turn from us and leave us to perish. No, no, that is not our Saviour.... He was tempted in all points like as we are; and having been tempted, He knows how to succor those who are tempted. Our crucified Lord is pleading for us in the presence of the Father at the throne of grace. His atoning sacrifice we may plead for our pardon, our justification, and our sanctification. The Lamb slain is our only hope. Our faith looks up to Him, grasps Him as the One who can save to the uttermost, and the fragrance of the all-sufficient offering is accepted of the Father.

“If you make failures and are betrayed into sin, do not feel then you cannot pray ... but seek the Lord more earnestly.” —*Our High Calling*, p. 49.

Atonement

And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement. Romans 5:11

OBJECTIVES

- To enlarge what it is that can render us as part of Abel's class of worshippers.
- To understand the meaning of "atonement".
- To appreciate the degree of restoration to the relationship lost in Eden by the atonement made.

ABEL'S CLASS

- 1. Did we understand the distinction of Abel's worship from that of Cain's? Heb. 11:4; Phil. 3:8, 9; Rom. 10:1-3**

"But Abel, by faith in a future Redeemer, offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain. His offering the blood of beasts signified that he was a sinner and had sins to put away, and that he was penitent and believed in the efficacy of the blood of the future great offering." —*Confrontation*, p. 23.

"The Scriptures, "It is written," is the gospel we are to preach. No flaming sword is placed before this tree of life. All who will may partake of it. There is no power that can prohibit any soul from taking of the fruit of this tree of life. All may eat and live forever." —*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 1*, p. 1086.

2. What is in the detail of this acceptable sacrifice as it contrasts with that of Cain? Eph. 2:14, 15; Heb. 2:14

“Here are two opposing elements, with two different leaders. One party is under the control of Satan. He is their captain. Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, is the leader of the other party. He laid off His royal robe and kingly crown, and clothed Himself with the garment of humanity, that He might stand at the head of the human race, bearing the trials that we must bear, and meeting the temptations that we must meet. The power of the temptations brought against Him was as much greater as He is higher and purer than we are, and yet not for an instant during His sojourn in this earth did He swerve from His loyalty to God. He lived a life pure and undefiled, unmarred by spot or stain of sin. It was in His right to place one hand upon the throne of God in heaven, while with the other He laid hold of fallen human beings, and has raised them from their degradation. To all who receive Him He gives power to become the sons of God.” —*Notebook Leaflets from the Elmshaven Library Vol. 1, p. 123.*

MEANING OF ATONEMENT

**3. Can we comprehend the meaning behind the word “atonement”?
Rom. 5:10, 11; 2 Cor. 5:18, 19**

“As a result of Adam's disobedience every human being is a transgressor of the law, sold under sin. Unless he repents and is converted, he is under bondage to the law, serving Satan, falling into the deceptions of the enemy, and bearing witness against the precepts of Jehovah. But by perfect obedience to the requirements of the law, man is justified. Only through faith

in Christ is such obedience possible. Men may comprehend the spirituality of the law, they may realize its power as a detector of sin, but they are helpless to withstand Satan's power and deceptions, unless they accept the atonement provided for them in the remedial sacrifice of Christ, who is our Atonement-- our At-one-ment--with God." —*In Heavenly Places*, p. 146.

- 4. As atonement and reconciliation are closely allied in meaning, does the atonement of Jesus carry a more practical meaning by which our estranged relationship with God can be truly reconciled?
Gal. 4:4; Heb. 2:17, 18; John 17:22, 23**

“Christ became one with humanity, that humanity might become one in Spirit and life with Him. By virtue of this union in obedience to the Word of God, His life becomes their life. He says to the penitent, "I am the resurrection, and the life." Death is looked upon by Christ as sleep--silence, darkness, sleep. He speaks of it as if it were of little moment. "Whosoever liveth and believeth in Me," He says, "shall never die." . . . And to the believing one, death is but a small matter. With him to die is but to sleep.”
—*My Life Today*, p. 295.

“Our Saviour took up the true relationship of a human being as the Son of God.” —*Sons and Daughters of God*, p. 154.

“We cannot come in touch with divinity without coming in touch with humanity; for in Him who sits upon the throne of the universe, divinity and humanity are combined.” —*God's Amazing Grace*, p. 145.

STEPS OF THE ATONEMENT

- 5. Are the steps of Christ's atonement discernible in the Bible?
Phil. 2:7, 8**

“Christ, at an infinite cost, by a painful process, mysterious to angels as well as to men, assumed humanity. Hiding His divinity, laying aside His glory, He was born a babe in Bethlehem. In human flesh He lived the law of God, that He might condemn sin in the flesh, and bear witness to heavenly intelligences that the law was ordained to life and to ensure the happiness, peace, and eternal good of all who obey. . . .

“This is the mystery of godliness, that One equal with the Father should clothe His divinity with humanity, and laying aside all the glory of His office as Commander in heaven, [should] descend step after step in the path of humiliation, enduring severe and still more severe abasement. Sinless and undefiled, He stood in the judgment hall, to be tried, to have His case investigated and pronounced upon by the very nation He had delivered from slavery. The Lord of glory was rejected and condemned, yea, spat upon. With contempt for what they regarded as His pretentious claims, men smote Him in the face.” —*The Upward Look*, p. 90.

**6. Where was the last step of His atonement with the sinner taken?
1 Cor. 5:21; 1 Pet. 2:24; Ps. 22:1; 40:12; Lam. 1:12-14**

“In his humanity Christ was tried with as much greater temptation, with as much more persevering energy than man is tried by the evil one, as his nature was greater than man's. This is a deep mysterious truth, that Christ is bound to humanity by the most sensitive sympathies. The evil works, the evil thoughts, the evil words of every son and daughter of Adam press upon his divine soul. The sins of men called for retribution upon himself; for he had become man's substitute, and took upon him the sins of the world. He bore the sins of every sinner; for all transgressions were imputed unto him, though "he did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth." Though the guilt of sin was not his, his Spirit was torn and bruised by the transgressions of men.” —*The Review and Herald*, Dec. 20, 1892.

THE SINNER'S RESTORATION

7. If we are of Abel's class of worshippers, will we enter into atonement with Jesus? What does that mean in regard to our experience? Rom. 6:3-6; Gal. 2:20; Phil. 3:10

"The whole world was gathered into the embrace of Christ. He died on the cross to destroy him who had the power of death and to take away the sin of every believing soul. He calls upon us to offer ourselves on the altar of service, a living, consuming sacrifice. We are to make an unreserved consecration to God of all that we have and are."—*In Heavenly Places*, p. 33.

8. Appreciating this relationship atonement with us and willingly entering into such atonement communion with God, will our relationship be fully restored as at the beginning of the world? Eph. 2:4-6

"In His prayer to the Father, Christ gave to the world a lesson which should be graven on mind and soul. "This is life eternal," He said, "that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent." John 17:3. This is true education. It imparts power. The experimental knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ whom He has sent, transforms man into the image of God. It gives to man the mastery of himself, bringing every impulse and passion of the lower nature under the control of the higher powers of the mind. It makes its possessor a son of God and an heir of heaven. It brings him into communion with the mind of the Infinite, and opens to him the rich treasures of the universe."—*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 114.

“In forming a relationship with Christ, the renewed man is but coming back to his appointed relationship with God.” —*Sons and Daughters of God*, p. 252.

MEDITATION

“Jesus did not yield up His life till He had accomplished the work which He came to do, and exclaimed with His departing breath: "It is finished." Satan was then defeated. He knew that his kingdom was lost. Angels rejoiced as the words were uttered: "It is finished." The great plan of redemption, which was dependent on the death of Christ, had been thus far carried out. And there was joy in heaven that the sons of Adam could, through a life of obedience, be finally exalted to the throne of God. Oh, what love! What amazing love! that brought the Son of God to earth to be made sin for us, that we might be reconciled to God, and elevated to a life with Him in His mansions in glory. Oh, what is man, that such a price should be paid for his redemption!” —*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 2*, p. 211.

Relationship Showdown (A)

And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it. Colossians 2:15

OBJECTIVES

- To show how Jesus bruised Satan's head.
- To reveal how Satan's hatred of Christ led him to bring about Christ's crucifixion.
- To discover how in that act the whole universe came to see Lucifer's corrupt motive and he unveiled his true nature.

IN THE STRONG MAN'S HOUSE

1. What did Jesus call Satan in reference to his position on earth and why did he call him this? John 14:30

“Satan . . . proudly boasted that the world which God had made was his dominion. Having conquered Adam, the monarch of the world, he had gained the race as his subjects, and he should now possess Eden, and make that his headquarters. And he would there establish his throne, and be monarch of the world.” —*The Truth About Angels*, p. 58.

2. Did Jesus reveal why He came onto Satan's enchanted ground upon entering this world as a human? Matt. 12:28, 29

“In the conflict of Christ with Satan in the wilderness of temptation the destiny of the human race was at stake. But Christ was conqueror, and the tempter left him for a season. He had now returned for the last fearful conflict. Satan had been preparing for this final trial during the three years of Christ's ministry. Everything was at stake with him. If he failed here his hope of mastery was lost; the kingdoms of the earth would finally become Christ's who would "bind the strong man" (Satan), and cast him out.”

—*The Spirit of Prophecy Vol. 3, p. 96.*

3. How else did Jesus announce His purpose and work in coming to this world? John 12:31-33

“Mighty issues for the world were at stake in the conflict between the Prince of light and the leader of the kingdom of darkness. After tempting man to sin, Satan claimed the earth as his, and styled himself the prince of this world. Having conformed to his own nature the father and mother of our race, he thought to establish here his empire. He declared that men had chosen him as their sovereign. Through his control of men, he held dominion over the world. Christ had come to disprove Satan's claim. As the Son of man, Christ would stand loyal to God. Thus it would be shown that Satan had not gained complete control of the human race, and that his claim to the world was false. All who desired deliverance from his power would be set free. The dominion that Adam had lost through sin would be recovered.”

"Now is the judgment of this world," Christ continued; "now shall the prince of this world be cast out. And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all unto Me. This He said, signifying what death He should die." This is the crisis of the world. If I become the propitiation for the sins of men, the world will be lighted up. Satan's hold upon the souls of men will be broken. The defaced image of God will be restored in humanity, and a family of believing saints will finally inherit the heavenly home. This is the result of Christ's death. The Saviour is lost in contemplation of the scene of triumph called up before Him. He sees the cross, the cruel, ignominious cross, with all its attending horrors, blazing with glory.” —*The Desire of Ages, pp. 114, 625.*

AT THE CROSS

- 4. Do we know that Satan was trying to destroy Christ from the time of His birth to the final showdown of the cross? Rev. 12:4; Matt. 2:13-16; 4:5-10**

“When Jesus came into the world, Satan's power was turned against Him. From the time when He appeared as a babe in Bethlehem, the usurper worked to bring about His destruction. In every possible way he sought to prevent Jesus from developing a perfect childhood, a faultless manhood, a holy ministry, and an unblemished sacrifice. But he was defeated. He could not lead Jesus into sin. He could not discourage Him, or drive Him from a work He had come on earth to do. From the desert to Calvary, the storm of Satan's wrath beat upon Him, but the more mercilessly it fell, the more firmly did the Son of God cling to the hand of His Father, and press on in the bloodstained path. All the efforts of Satan to oppress and overcome Him only brought out in a purer light His spotless character.” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 759.

“In the conflict of Christ with Satan in the wilderness of temptation the destiny of the human race was at stake. But Christ was conqueror, and the tempter left him for a season. He had now returned for the last fearful conflict. Satan had been preparing for this final trial during the three years of Christ's ministry. Everything was at stake with him. If he failed here his hope of mastery was lost; the kingdoms of the earth would finally become Christ's who would "bind the strong man" (Satan), and cast him out.” —*The Spirit of Prophecy Vol. 3*, p. 96.

- 5. Does Inspiration show that at the cross Jesus met more than human destruction upon His life? Ps. 22:12, 13, 16-18, 21; 69:4**

“The principalities and powers of darkness were assembled around the cross, casting the hellish shadow of unbelief into the hearts of men. When the Lord created these beings to stand before His throne, they were beautiful and glorious. Their loveliness and holiness were in accordance with their exalted station. They were enriched with the wisdom of God, and girded with the panoply of heaven. They were Jehovah's ministers. But who could recognize in the fallen angels the glorious seraphim that once ministered in the heavenly courts?

“Satanic agencies confederated with evil men in leading the people to believe Christ the chief of sinners, and to make Him the object of detestation. Those who mocked Christ as He hung upon the cross were imbued with the spirit of the first great rebel. He filled them with vile and loathsome speeches. He inspired their taunts. But by all this he gained nothing.”

—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 760.

6. What relationship showdown was playing out before the inhabitants of the universe? 1 Cor. 4:9

“Heaven beheld the Victim betrayed into the hands of the murderous mob, and with mockery and violence hurried from one tribunal to another. It heard the sneers of His persecutors because of His lowly birth. It heard the denial with cursing and swearing by one of His best-loved disciples. It saw the frenzied work of Satan, and his power over the hearts of men. Oh, fearful scene! the Saviour seized at midnight in Gethsemane, dragged to and fro from palace to judgment hall, arraigned twice before the priests, twice before the Sanhedrin, twice before Pilate, and once before Herod, mocked, scourged, condemned, and led out to be crucified, bearing the heavy burden of the cross, amid the wailing of the daughters of Jerusalem and the jeering of the rabble.

“Heaven viewed with grief and amazement Christ hanging upon the cross, blood flowing from His wounded temples, and sweat tinged with blood standing upon His brow. From His hands and feet the blood fell, drop by drop, upon the rock drilled for the foot of the cross. The wounds made by

the nails gaped as the weight of His body dragged upon His hands. His labored breath grew quick and deep, as His soul panted under the burden of the sins of the world. All heaven was filled with wonder when the prayer of Christ was offered in the midst of His terrible suffering,—"Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." Luke 23:34. Yet there stood men, formed in the image of God, joining to crush out the life of His only-begotten Son. What a sight for the heavenly universe!" —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 760.

LUCIFER UNVEILED

7. As Jesus was suffering under the cruelty of Satan, did Satan realise what he was doing? Gen. 3:15; John 12:31

“In His dying agony on the cross, Christ was scorned by the people who claimed to be waiting for the Messiah, but who showed by their actions the value of their spirituality. Surely Christ has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows. Surely he was wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities. But did not Satan understand that while He was bruising the heel of the Son of God, the Son of God was bruising his head? What great and wonderful effects have resulted from the crucifixion! What a view of the character of God, Christ's sacrifice has opened to the universe! His love for man, far surpassing all human love, has lifted the law of God to its own eternal dignity. The attributes of God have been revealed, and the holy requirements of His law have been vindicated. The effects of the sacrifice on the cross are still felt; but all who would be saved must themselves have an interest in the crucified One.” —*The Signs of the Times*, Apr. 14, 1898.

“But the work of human redemption is not all that is accomplished by the cross. The love of God is manifested to the universe. The prince of this world is cast out. The accusations which Satan has brought against God are refuted. The reproach which he has cast upon heaven is forever removed. Angels as well as men are drawn to the Redeemer. "I, if I be lifted up from the earth," He said, "will draw all unto Me."” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 626.

8. Had Lucifer left any lingering affection for him in the hearts of the unfallen angels, and was this now effectively removed? Col. 2:15; Rev. 12:10

“It was difficult to uproot Satan from the affection of the angels in heaven.”
—*Christ Triumphant*, p. 216.

“Satan saw that his disguise was torn away. His administration was laid open before the unfallen angels and before the heavenly universe. He had revealed himself as a murderer. By shedding the blood of the Son of God, he had uprooted himself from the sympathies of the heavenly beings. Henceforth his work was restricted. Whatever attitude he might assume, he could no longer await the angels as they came from the heavenly courts, and before them accuse Christ's brethren of being clothed with the garments of blackness and the defilement of sin. The last link of sympathy between Satan and the heavenly world was broken.” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 761.

“When Christ cried, "It is finished," the great sacrifice was complete. Satan and his angels were uprooted from the affection of the universe. Satan had taken such a course of deception that the angels of heaven had been in doubt of his real character. God moves in a straightforward course. It was impossible for God to lie; but Satan was as crooked as a serpent. All Heaven rejoiced when Christ rose from the dead. He had power to bind the strong man, and to despoil him of his goods.” —*The Signs of the Times*, Sept. 23, 1889.

MEDITATION

“When Christ cried out from the cross, "It is finished," all Heaven triumphed. The controversy between Christ and Satan in regard to the execution of the plan of salvation was ended. The spirit of Satan and his works had taken deep root in the affections of the children of men; but the holy angels were horror-stricken that one of their number could fall so far as to be capable of such cruelty as had been manifested toward the Son of God on Calvary. Every sentiment of pity and sympathy which they had ever felt for Satan in his exile was quenched in their hearts. That his envy should

be manifested in such a revenge upon an innocent person was enough to strip him of his assumed robe of celestial light, and to reveal the hideous deformity beneath; but to manifest such malignity toward the divine Son of God, who had with unprecedented self-denial and love for the creatures formed in his image, come from heaven and assumed their fallen nature, was such a heinous crime against Heaven that it caused the angels to shudder with horror, and severed the last tie of sympathy existing between Satan and the heavenly world.” —*The Signs of the Times*, Sept. 23, 1889.

“But Satan reached only the heel; he could not touch the head. At the death of Christ, Satan saw that he was defeated. He saw that his true character was clearly revealed before all heaven, and that the heavenly beings and the worlds that God had created would be wholly on the side of God. He saw that his prospects of future influence with them would be entirely cut off. Christ's humanity would demonstrate for eternal ages the question which settled the controversy.” —*Selected Messages Book 1*, p. 255.

“Satan again counseled with his angels, and with bitter hatred against God's government told them that while he retained his power and authority upon earth their efforts must be tenfold stronger against the followers of Jesus. They had prevailed nothing against Christ but must overthrow His followers, if possible. In every generation they must seek to ensnare those who would believe in Jesus. He related to his angels that Jesus had given His disciples power to rebuke them and cast them out, and to heal those whom they should afflict. Then Satan's angels went forth like roaring lions, seeking to destroy the followers of Jesus.” —*The Story of Redemption*, p. 240.

**3. Why did God continue to permit Satan to exercise himself?
Rom. 9:22, 23; Gal. 6:7**

“Yet Satan was not then destroyed. The angels did not even then understand all that was involved in the great controversy. The principles at stake were to be more fully revealed. And for the sake of man, Satan's existence must be continued. Man as well as angels must see the contrast between the Prince of light and the prince of darkness. He must choose whom he will serve.”
—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 761.

PAGAN AND PAPAL PERSECUTION

4. Having exposed Satan by the death of Christ, how else will God expose the relentless nature of the evil one? Compare Gen. 3:15 with Rom. 16:20

“The Lord said concerning Satan, that old serpent, that he should bruise the heel of Christ, but Christ would bruise his head. Thank God, he cannot touch the head. “With the mind I myself serve the law of God,” said the apostle. The mind and heart are enlisted in the service of Christ, while Satan has enlisted humans and fallen angels to join in his company to league against good. They can bruise only the heel, while in the very act, when Satan seems to have triumphed in putting them to torture and death, the faithful who stand in defense of the law of Jehovah are wounding the head of the great rebel.

“This prophecy of enmity between Satan and Christ is far-reaching. It is a delineation of an unwearied conflict between Christ and His followers, Satan and his angels, and fallen humans united in a desperate companionship to reproach, bruise, wound, and exterminate the followers of Christ to the close of time.” —*Christ Triumphant*, p. 29.

5. Before Jesus could come again and conclude Satan’s evil work, what would have to take place? 2 Thess. 2:3-9

“Paul's words were not to be misinterpreted. It was not to be taught that he, by special revelation, had warned the Thessalonians of the immediate coming of Christ. Such a position would cause confusion of faith; for disappointment often leads to unbelief. The apostle therefore cautioned the brethren to receive no such message as coming from him, and he proceeded to emphasize the fact that the papal power, so clearly described by the prophet Daniel, was yet to rise and wage war against God's people. Until this power should have performed its deadly and blasphemous work, it would be in vain for the church to look for the coming of their Lord. "Remember ye not," Paul inquired, "that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?"

“Terrible were the trials that were to beset the true church. Even at the time when the apostle was writing, the "mystery of iniquity" had already begun to work. The developments that were to take place in the future were to be "after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish.”” —*The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 265, 266.

6. Beholding the cruel treatment of Christ’s true followers during the pagan persecution and into the Dark Ages of papal persecution, do we see the fulfilment of Romans 16:20? Rev. 6:9-11; Matt. 24:21, 22

“This prophecy refers not only to the enmity between Christ and Satan, but also to the enmity that exists between the world and the followers of the world’s Redeemer. Christ was the special one who should bruise the head of the serpent; but the prophecy also includes all those who shall overcome the enemy by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony. In the words addressed to the serpent is a delineation of the great, unended conflict that has been waging in the world from the beginning of sin. The earth is the battle field for the conflict, and the result of the conflict, while it brings temporal loss upon the followers of Christ, will bring eternal ruin upon Satan, evil angels, and evil men, who unite with the enemy in the controversy against Christ.” —*The Signs of the Times*, July 11, 1895.

WAR TO THE BITTER END

7. Although Satan did not succeed at the cross, nor in the Dark Ages, does he ever give up? Rev. 12:14-17; 13:15-17

“Those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus will feel the ire of the dragon and his hosts. Satan numbers the world as his subjects, he has gained control of the apostate churches; but here is a little company that are resisting his supremacy. If he could blot them from the earth, his triumph would be complete. As he influenced the heathen nations to destroy Israel, so in the near future he will stir up the wicked powers of earth to destroy the people of God. . . . Their only hope is in the mercy of God; their only defense will be prayer.”

“The wrath of Satan increases as his time grows short, and his work of deceit and destruction will reach its culmination in the time of trouble.” —*The Faith I Live By*, p. 289.

8. What is our privilege as we meet Satan’s last thrust of almost overwhelming magnitude? Rev. 7:14, 15; Dan. 12:10, 3

“As Satan accuses the people of God on account of their sins, the Lord permits him to try them to the uttermost. Their confidence in God, their faith and firmness, will be severely tested. As they review the past, their hopes sink; for in their whole lives they can see little good. They are fully conscious of their weakness and unworthiness. Satan endeavors to terrify them with the thought that their cases are hopeless, that the stain of their defilement will never be washed away. He hopes so to destroy their faith that they will yield to his temptations and turn from their allegiance to God.”
—*The Great Controversy*, p. 618.

“Said the apostle Paul, “Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? . . . And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God” (1 Corinthians 6:9-11). The absence of devotion, piety, and sanctification of the outer man comes through denying Jesus Christ our righteousness. The love of God needs to be constantly cultivated.”
—*Faith and Works*, p. 15.

Relationship Showdown (C)

And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years. Revelation 20:1, 2

OBJECTIVES

- To see Satan finally imprisoned by the consequences of his own persistent ways.
- To come to the understanding that Lucifer's relationship challenge in heaven was permitted to take its course to display its own results.
- To behold God's glorious character in the final judgment.

SATAN'S KINGDOM ON DISPLAY

1. While Satan was at work to destroy God's kingdom on earth, was his kingdom flourishing? Matt. 24:6, 7

“In the history of nations the student of God's word may behold the literal fulfillment of divine prophecy. Babylon, shattered and broken at last, passed away because in prosperity its rulers had regarded themselves as independent of God, and had ascribed the glory of their kingdom to human achievement. . . . The kingdoms that followed were even more base and corrupt; and these sank lower and still lower in the scale of moral worth.”

—*Conflict and Courage*, p. 250.

“Every nation that has come upon the stage of action has been permitted to occupy its place on the earth, that it might be seen whether it would fulfill the purpose of "the Watcher and the Holy One." Prophecy has traced the rise and fall of the world's great empires--Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome. With each of these, as with nations of less power, history repeated itself. Each had its period of test, each failed, its glory faded, its power departed, and its place was occupied by another.” —*Education*, p. 176.

2. Coming to the time of the end, do we see harmony among the nations Satan has under his control? Rev. 11:18 (first phrase); Jer. 25:32; Isa. 57:20

“In the future there will be broken thrones and great distress of nations with perplexity. Satan will work with intense activity. The earth will be filled with the shrieks of suffering, expiring nations. There will be war. The places of the earth will be in confusion, as from its bowels pour forth its burning contents to destroy the inhabitants of the world who, in their wickedness, resemble the inhabitants of the antediluvian world.” —*Christ Triumphant*, p. 56.

“Through spiritualism, Satan appears as a benefactor of the race, healing the diseases of the people and professing to present a new and more exalted system of religious faith; but at the same time he works as a destroyer. His temptations are leading multitudes to ruin. Intemperance dethrones reason; sensual indulgence, strife, and bloodshed follow. Satan delights in war, for it excites the worst passions of the soul and then sweeps into eternity its victims steeped in vice and blood. It is his object to incite the nations to war against one another; for he can thus divert the minds of the people from the work of preparation to stand in the day of God.” —*Counsels on Health*, p. 460.

3. Besides national conflict, what else does the planet suffer under his rule? Isa. 24:4, 5

“While appearing to the children of men as a great physician who can heal all their maladies, he will bring disease and disaster, until populous cities are reduced to ruin and desolation. Even now he is at work. In accidents and calamities by sea and by land, in great conflagrations, in fierce tornadoes and terrific hailstorms, in tempests, floods, cyclones, tidal waves, and earthquakes, in every place and in a thousand forms, Satan is exercising his power. He sweeps away the ripening harvest, and famine and distress follow. He imparts to the air a deadly taint, and thousands perish by the pestilence. These visitations are to become more and more frequent and disastrous. Destruction will be upon both man and beast. "The earth mourneth and fadeth away," "The haughty people . . . do languish. The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant." Isaiah 24:4, 5.” —*Counsels on Health*, p. 461.

**4. How will it all conclude, and what do we see angels doing to give God’s people needed time for their relationship restoration?
Isa. 24:20; Rev. 7:1-3**

“John writes, "I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne." Angels were united in the work of Him who had broken the seals and taken the book. Four mighty angels hold back the powers of this earth till the servants of God are sealed in their foreheads. The nations of the world are eager for conflict; but they are held in check by the angels. When this restraining power is removed, there will come a time of trouble and anguish. Deadly instruments of warfare will be invented. Vessels, with their living cargo, will be entombed in the great deep. All who have not the spirit of truth will unite under the leadership of satanic agencies. But they are to be kept under control till the time shall come for the great battle of Armageddon.

“Angels are belting the world, refusing Satan his claims to supremacy, made because of the vast multitude of his adherents. We hear not the voices, we see not with the natural sight the work of these angels, but their hands are linked about the world, and with sleepless vigilance they are keeping the armies of Satan at bay till the sealing of God's people shall be accomplished.” —*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 7, p. 967.*

LUCIFER'S REWARD

5. In the study of the seven last plagues of Revelation 16, do we see the world devastated by Satan's rebellion? Rev. 16:13, 14; Isa. 14:16, 17

6. How does prophetic symbolism describe Satan's confinement due to his devastating activities on earth? Rev. 20:1-3; Isa. 24:19-22; 14:18-20

“The earth looked like a desolate wilderness. Cities and villages, shaken down by the earthquake, lay in heaps. Mountains had been moved out of their places, leaving large caverns. Ragged rocks, thrown out by the sea, or torn out of the earth itself, were scattered all over its surface. Large trees had been uprooted and were strewn over the land. Here is to be the home of Satan with his evil angels for a thousand years. Here he will be confined, to wander up and down over the broken surface of the earth and see the effects of his rebellion against God's law. For a thousand years he can enjoy the fruit of the curse which he has caused. Limited alone to the earth, he will not have the privilege of ranging to other planets, to tempt and annoy those who have not fallen. During this time, Satan suffers extremely. Since his fall his

evil traits have been in constant exercise. But he is then to be deprived of his power, and left to reflect upon the part which he has acted since his fall, and to look forward with trembling and terror to the dreadful future, when he must suffer for all the evil that he has done and be punished for all the sins that he has caused to be committed.” —*Early Writings*, p. 290.

SATAN'S FINAL CONFESSION

7. After one thousand years of exile, will Satan give up his conflict against God? Rev. 20:7-9 (first half); Isa. 26:10

“Now Satan prepares for a last mighty struggle for the supremacy. While deprived of his power and cut off from his work of deception, the prince of evil was miserable and dejected; but as the wicked dead are raised and he sees the vast multitudes upon his side, his hopes revive, and he determines not to yield the great controversy. He will marshal all the armies of the lost under his banner and through them endeavor to execute his plans. The wicked are Satan’s captives. In rejecting Christ they have accepted the rule of the rebel leader. They are ready to receive his suggestions and to do his bidding. Yet, true to his early cunning, he does not acknowledge himself to be Satan. He claims to be the prince who is the rightful owner of the world and whose inheritance has been unlawfully wrested from him. He represents himself to his deluded subjects as a redeemer, assuring them that his power has brought them forth from their graves and that he is about to rescue them from the most cruel tyranny. The presence of Christ having been removed, Satan works wonders to support his claims. He makes the weak strong and inspires all with his own spirit and energy. He proposes to lead them against the camp of the saints and to take possession of the City of God. With fiendish exultation he points to the unnumbered millions who have been raised from the dead and declares that as their leader he is well able to overthrow the city and regain his throne and his kingdom.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 663.

8. How is Satan once again thwarted and finally brought to confess his wrong and God's justice? Isa. 26:11; Rev. 20:11-13

“As soon as the books of record are opened, and the eye of Jesus looks upon the wicked, they are conscious of every sin which they have ever committed. They see just where their feet diverged from the path of purity and holiness, just how far pride and rebellion have carried them in the violation of the law of God. The seductive temptations which they encouraged by indulgence in sin, the blessings perverted, the messengers of God despised, the warnings rejected, the waves of mercy beaten back by the stubborn, unrepentant heart--all appear as if written in letters of fire.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 666.

“Satan seems paralyzed as he beholds the glory and majesty of Christ. He who was once a covering cherub remembers whence he has fallen. A shining seraph, "son of the morning;" how changed, how degraded! From the council where once he was honored, he is forever excluded. He sees another now standing near to the Father, veiling His glory. He has seen the crown placed upon the head of Christ by an angel of lofty stature and majestic presence, and he knows that the exalted position of this angel might have been his.

“Memory recalls the home of his innocence and purity, the peace and content that were his until he indulged in murmuring against God, and envy of Christ. His accusations, his rebellion, his deceptions to gain the sympathy and support of the angels, his stubborn persistence in making no effort for self-recovery when God would have granted him forgiveness --all come vividly before him. He reviews his work among men and its results--the enmity of man toward his fellow man, the terrible destruction of life, the rise and fall of kingdoms, the overturning of thrones, the long succession of tumults, conflicts, and revolutions. He recalls his constant efforts to oppose the work of Christ and to sink man lower and lower. He sees that his hellish plots have been powerless to destroy those who have put their trust in Jesus. As Satan looks upon his kingdom, the fruit of his toil, he sees only failure and ruin. He has led the multitudes to believe that the City of God would be

an easy prey; but he knows that this is false. Again and again, in the progress of the great controversy, he has been defeated and compelled to yield. He knows too well the power and majesty of the Eternal.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 669.

“Satan sees that his voluntary rebellion has unfitted him for heaven. He has trained his powers to war against God; the purity, peace, and harmony of heaven would be to him supreme torture. His accusations against the mercy and justice of God are now silenced. The reproach which he has endeavored to cast upon Jehovah rests wholly upon himself. And now Satan bows down and confesses the justice of his sentence.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 670.

Eternal Relationship Security

What do ye imagine against the LORD? he will make an utter end: affliction shall not rise up the second time. Nahum 1:9

OBJECTIVES

- To learn that the condition of evil cannot be eradicated but by its own self-destruction.
- To recognise the vindication of God's government in letting events unfold to their final manifestation.
- To appreciate that by God's relationship of love, broken relationships will never take place again — eternal relationship security is guaranteed.

FINAL DEMISE OF EVIL

- 1. Although Satan and his adherents have been brought to confess, can the relationship canker in their hearts be healed? Prov. 5:22; Ps. 66:3, 4**

“Notwithstanding that Satan has been constrained to acknowledge God's justice and to bow to the supremacy of Christ, his character remains unchanged. The spirit of rebellion, like a mighty torrent, again bursts forth. Filled with frenzy, he determines not to yield the great controversy. The time has come for a last desperate struggle against the King of heaven. He rushes into the midst of his subjects and endeavors to inspire them with his own fury and arouse them to instant battle. But of all the countless millions whom he has allured into rebellion, there are none now to acknowledge his

supremacy. His power is at an end. The wicked are filled with the same hatred of God that inspires Satan; but they see that their case is hopeless, that they cannot prevail against Jehovah. Their rage is kindled against Satan and those who have been his agents in deception, and with the fury of demons they turn upon them.”

“Every eye in that vast multitude is turned to behold the glory of the Son of God. With one voice the wicked hosts exclaim: "Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord!" It is not love to Jesus that inspires this utterance. The force of truth urges the words from unwilling lips. As the wicked went into their graves, so they come forth with the same enmity to Christ and the same spirit of rebellion. They are to have no new probation in which to remedy the defects of their past lives. Nothing would be gained by this. A lifetime of transgression has not softened their hearts. A second probation, were it given them, would be occupied as was the first in evading the requirements of God and exciting rebellion against Him.” —*The Great Controversy*, pp. 671, 662.

2. What is the consequence of such an unrelenting mindset? How do all the wicked follow suit? Ezek. 28:18; Isa. 26:11 (last part); Mal. 4:1, 3; Zech. 14:12

“Their rage is kindled against Satan and those who have been his agents in deception, and with the fury of demons they turn upon them.”

“The wicked receive their recompense in the earth. Proverbs 11:31. They "shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts." Malachi 4:1. Some are destroyed as in a moment, while others suffer many days. All are punished "according to their deeds." The sins of the righteous having been transferred to Satan, he is made to suffer not only for his own rebellion, but for all the sins which he has caused God's people to commit. His punishment is to be far greater than that of those whom he has deceived. After all have perished who fell by his deceptions, he is still to live and suffer on. In the cleansing flames the wicked are at last destroyed, root and branch—Satan the root, his followers the branches. The full penalty

of the law has been visited; the demands of justice have been met; and heaven and earth, beholding, declare the righteousness of Jehovah.”
—*The Great Controversy*, pp. 671, 673.

GOD’S CHARACTER FULLY VINDICATED

- 3. As the unfallen worlds and angels have witnessed the rebellion of Lucifer down through the ages and observed this final showdown of his resistance and hatred, is there any vestige of affection toward him left in their hearts? Isa. 14:16; Ps. 52:6, 7**

““Who shall not fear Thee, O Lord, and glorify Thy name? for Thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before Thee; for Thy judgments are made manifest.” [...] Every question of truth and error in the long-standing controversy has now been made plain. The results of rebellion, the fruits of setting aside the divine statutes, have been laid open to the view of all created intelligences. The working out of Satan’s rule in contrast with the government of God has been presented to the whole universe. Satan’s own works have condemned him. God’s wisdom, His justice, and His goodness stand fully vindicated. It is seen that all His dealings in the great controversy have been conducted with respect to the eternal good of His people and the good of all the worlds that He has created. “All Thy works shall praise Thee, O Lord; and Thy saints shall bless Thee.” Psalm 145:10. The history of sin will stand to all eternity as a witness that with the existence of God’s law is bound up the happiness of all the beings He has created. With all the facts of the great controversy in view, the whole universe, both loyal and rebellious, with one accord declare: “Just and true are Thy ways, Thou King of saints.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 670.

- 4. What relationship restoration did God achieve by His patient waiting for the full display of Satan and evil? Ps. 107:42, 43**

“This is not an act of arbitrary power on the part of God. The rejecters of His mercy reap that which they have sown. God is the fountain of life; and when one chooses the service of sin, he separates from God, and thus cuts himself off from life. He is "alienated from the life of God." Christ says, "All they that hate Me love death." Ephesians 4:18; Proverbs 8:36. God gives them existence for a time that they may develop their character and reveal their principles. This accomplished, they receive the results of their own choice. By a life of rebellion, Satan and all who unite with him place themselves so out of harmony with God that His very presence is to them a consuming fire. The glory of Him who is love will destroy them.

“At the beginning of the great controversy, the angels did not understand this. Had Satan and his host then been left to reap the full result of their sin, they would have perished; but it would not have been apparent to heavenly beings that this was the inevitable result of sin. A doubt of God's goodness would have remained in their minds as evil seed, to produce its deadly fruit of sin and woe.

“But not so when the great controversy shall be ended. Then, the plan of redemption having been completed, the character of God is revealed to all created intelligences. The precepts of His law are seen to be perfect and immutable. Then sin has made manifest its nature, Satan his character. Then the extermination of sin will vindicate God's love and establish His honor before a universe of beings who delight to do His will, and in whose heart is His law.” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 764.

ETERNAL SECURITY

- 5. Following the fiery destruction of Satan's domain, will this planet be forever a source of security from defection into eternity?
Isa. 65:16 (last part), 17, 18; Rev. 20:3-5**

“The great plan of redemption results in fully bringing back the world into God's favor. All that was lost by sin is restored. Not only man but the earth is redeemed, to be the eternal abode of the obedient. For six thousand years Satan has struggled to maintain possession of the earth. Now God's original purpose in its creation is accomplished. "The saints of the Most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom forever, even forever and ever." Daniel 7:18.

“From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same the Lord's name is to be praised." Psalm 113:3. "In that day shall there be one Lord, and His name one." "And Jehovah shall be king over all the earth." Zechariah 14:9. Says the Scripture, "Forever, O Lord, Thy word is settled in heaven." "All His commandments are sure. They stand fast forever and ever." Psalm 119:89; 111:7, 8. The sacred statutes which Satan has hated and sought to destroy, will be honored throughout a sinless universe. And "as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all nations." Isaiah 61:11.” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 342.

6. Will anything be left as a token to remember the price God had to pay to secure relationships of peace into eternity? Zech. 13:6; Hab. 3:4

“One reminder alone remains: Our Redeemer will ever bear the marks of His crucifixion. Upon His wounded head, upon His side, His hands and feet, are the only traces of the cruel work that sin has wrought. Says the prophet, beholding Christ in His glory: "He had bright beams coming out of His side: and there was the hiding of His power." Habakkuk 3:4, margin. That pierced side whence flowed the crimson stream that reconciled man to God—there is the Saviour's glory, there "the hiding of His power." "Mighty to save," through the sacrifice of redemption, He was therefore strong to execute justice upon them that despised God's mercy. And the tokens of His humiliation are His highest honor; through the eternal ages the wounds of

Calvary will show forth His praise and declare His power.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 674.

7. With such a drama displayed before all intelligences, will there be any chance of sin ever raising itself in any heart? Nah. 1:9

“Through Christ's redeeming work the government of God stands justified. The Omnipotent One is made known as the God of love. Satan's charges are refuted, and his character unveiled. Rebellion can never again arise. Sin can never again enter the universe. Through eternal ages all are secure from apostasy. By love's self-sacrifice, the inhabitants of earth and heaven are bound to their Creator in bonds of indissoluble union.” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 26.

“The whole universe will have become witnesses to the nature and results of sin. And its utter extermination, which in the beginning would have brought fear to angels and dishonor to God, will now vindicate His love and establish His honor before the universe of beings who delight to do His will, and in whose heart is His law. Never will evil again be manifest. Says the word of God: "Affliction shall not rise up the second time." Nahum 1:9. The law of God, which Satan has reproached as the yoke of bondage, will be honored as the law of liberty. A tested and proved creation will never again be turned from allegiance to Him whose character has been fully manifested before them as fathomless love and infinite wisdom.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 504.

MEDITATION

“The work of redemption will be complete. In the place where sin abounded, God's grace much more abounds. The earth itself, the very field that Satan claims as his, is to be not only ransomed but exalted. Our little world, under the curse of sin the one dark blot in His glorious creation, will be honored above all other worlds in the universe of God. Here, where the Son of God tabernacled in humanity; where the King of glory lived and suffered and died,—here, when He shall make all things new, the tabernacle of God shall

be with men, "and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with them, and be their God." And through endless ages as the redeemed walk in the light of the Lord, they will praise Him for His unspeakable Gift,-- Immanuel, "God with us."” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 26.