

Pine Knoll Sabbath School Study Notes

Second Quarter 2024: *The Great Controversy*

Lesson 7 “Motivated by Hope”

Read for this week’s study

1 Thessalonians 4:13–18; Matthew 24:27, 30, 31; 2 Peter 1:19–21; Daniel 8:14; Daniel; 9:20–27; Ezra 7:7–13.

Memory Text

“And it will be said in that day: ‘Behold, this is our God; we have waited for Him, and He will save us. This is the LORD; we have waited for Him; we will be glad and rejoice in His salvation’ ” (Isaiah 25:9, NKJV).

Lesson Outline from Adult Sabbath School Study Guide

- I. Introduction
- II. The Promise of His Return
- III. Anticipating the Time
- IV. William Miller and the Bible
- V. The 2,300 Days of Daniel 8:14
- VI. The Longest Prophetic Timeline
- VII. Further Study

Questions and Notes for Consideration

Facilitator: Jon Paulien

1. This lesson is based on chapters 18-21 in the book *The Great Controversy*. In the second generation, the Reformation foundered a bit in Europe, but Protestantism achieved new vigor in the New World, North America. The Millerite movement was an outgrowth of the unique way Protestantism developed in the United States of America. Just as God used the Protestant Reformers to rediscover the truth about justification by faith in Christ alone, He used William Miller to rediscover the truth about the manner of Christ’s second coming. This lesson explores the biblical basis of some of those developments. (Sabbath Afternoon’s Lesson)
2. Read Titus 2:11-14, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, Revelation 1:7, and John 14:1-3 in that order. What do each of these contribute to our understanding of Jesus’ Second Coming? What does the Second Coming mean to you personally? (Sunday’s Lesson)

3. Fundamental belief number 25 gives the Seventh-day Adventist perspective on the second coming of Jesus. It will be literal, personal, visible, worldwide, near, and unexpected. Several of those can be discerned in the text related to the previous day's lesson. What do the following texts contribute to that perspective (Acts 1:9-11; Rev 1:7; Matt 24:27; 1 Thess 5:2-5). (Monday's Lesson)?
4. William Miller and others used a "proof-text" method to develop a deeper understanding of the Bible. The proof-text method is a theological method that seeks to bring all the key texts of the Bible on a particular subject together to determine the biblical approach to that topic. What are some of the strengths and weaknesses of the proof-text method? Are there ways to use the method while avoiding some of its weaknesses? Why is a correct understanding of prophetic symbolism so important for our faith? (Tuesday's Lesson)
5. William Miller came to observe that biblical predictions tended to be fulfilled fairly precisely. Examples in the Old Testament were the 400 years of sojourn in Egypt (Genesis 15:13), the 40 years of wandering in the wilderness (Numbers 14:34), and the seventy years of Israel's captivity in Babylon (Jeremiah 25:11 and Daniel 9:24). What support for this idea did he find in the New Testament (Mark 1:15; Galatians 4:4; Romans 5:6)? (Wednesday's Lesson)
6. Read Daniel 8:14. What event was to occur at the end of the 2300 days? What would restoration of the sanctuary mean in New Testament terms? (Wednesday's Lesson)
7. Read Daniel 9:24-27. When does the 2300 day prophecy begin and what major events are predicted here? What are some principles of prophetic interpretation that should be kept in mind when dealing with biblical predictions? (Thursday's Lesson)
8. Early Adventists determined that the 2300 day prophecy ended in the year AD 1844. What is the significance of that date today? Why did God allow the early Adventist pioneers to get the event wrong? (Friday's Lesson)
9. What role does prophecy play within the larger picture of the plan of salvation? (Friday's Lesson)

Thoughts from Graham Maxwell

Lou: Our question tonight, "How Soon Will the Conflict Be Over?" From what you have said, seems to be tied in very closely with the Second Coming of Christ. And what I'm wondering is, is that really the end of the conflict? Is that what you're saying this evening? Or aren't there some other very important events such as the Millennium, the destruction of the wicked, that are part of what we might call "the conflict"?

Graham: That's true. There are major events yet to come after. But the Second Coming really does mark the end of the essential conflict, because the conflict is not so much a great war in which the powers of heaven are arrayed against the powers of earth and God will eventually move in and bring it to an end. The essential conflict is in the minds of His children, of angels and of men. And the Second Coming means it's all over. The loyal are committed forever to loyalty and the disloyal are committed forever to their rebellious rejection. So this is the conflict that really counts.

And that has many significant implications. This is the important conflict that takes place in our minds. We've talked about how the most essential thing is for God to demonstrate the truth about Himself. And some will object, "Well, that doesn't make *us* very important." No, if His demonstration does not lead some of us to conviction in our minds, He's failed. So we are not just pawns. He is trying to win us. We are very much involved in this conflict. This conflict is being fought in the minds of His own children.

Lou: This takes us back to the very beginning, to our first conversation about the nature of the conflict, doesn't it?

Graham: Yes.

Lou: Really then, it's not a struggle of power and armies and D-Day.

Graham: He could have had all that in one minute.

Lou: But it is a struggle for trust, decisions and that kind of thing.

Graham: So you see again, we are not just spectators of the conflict. We are very much involved, with the most important questions about Him. {Graham Maxwell. Excerpt from the audio series, *Conversations About God*, #19 with Lou Venden, "How Soon Will the Conflict Be Over?" recorded June 1984, Loma Linda, California} *To listen to the entire audio of the above reference, click on the following direct link: <http://pkp.cc/19MMCAG>*

The suggestion is, here, not that "I tell you these things before so you can work out your schedule of future events, but I tell you these things beforehand so that when they happen you may remember, and say, 'The Lord predicted that.'" Think what that says about Him. There's an additional verse in 14:29, where He's talking about His having to leave them. He says, "I have told you this before it takes place, so that when it does take place, you may believe." That's the simplest statement. Now, belief is always trust, have faith. I think this is one of the most important reasons for prophecy. It's not so that we can work out the schedule, only, or necessarily. We might even be wrong in some detail. Isn't it true, with most of the major prophecies, that we figured them out afterwards? Didn't we figure out 1844 afterwards? When

all the evidence began coming together? We made some mistakes at first. “I tell you these things beforehand, so that when they happen [when you see it happening], you look back and say, ‘Look how the Lord predicted that!’”

By the way, this is the way I feel about 1844. You see, it isn’t just that verse that gives us the date. It’s what happened in 1844. All kinds of things happened at that time. And then you look back and say, “Look at that time prophecy. It fits, doesn’t it?” The events occurred, whether there was a prophecy or not. They have occurred. The great Second Advent Movement, the study of the prophecies, all the signs, all the rest. We’re not dependent on that one verse, 2300 days, then 1844. Some seem to pin it too much on just that. Look at all that happened around that period. You can’t change that. That’s history. That’s where we came from. It really happened. Then you look back and read about the 2300 days, and 1844, and you say, “Say, that fits, doesn’t it?” I think we’re encouraged to use these prophecies that way. {Graham Maxwell. Excerpt from the audio series, *The Picture of God in All 66 – Daniel*, recorded February 1982, Riverside, California} *To listen to the entire audio of the above reference, click on the following direct links:*

*Audio links to the West Covina series recorded in 1984:

<http://pkp.cc/39MMPOGIA66> (Part 1) <http://pkp.cc/40MMPOGIA66> (Part 2)

Further Study with Ellen White

The years of eternity, as they roll, will bring richer and still more glorious revelations of God and of Christ. As knowledge is progressive, so will love, reverence, and happiness increase. The more men learn of God, the greater will be their admiration of His character.—GC 678 (1911). {1MCP 252.1}

When Christ comes to gather to Himself those who have been faithful, the last trump will sound, and the whole earth, from the summits of the loftiest mountains to the lowest recesses of the deepest mines, will hear. The righteous dead will hear the sound of the last trump, and will come forth from their graves, to be clothed with immortality, and to meet their Lord (SpT Series B, No. 2, p. 24). {7BC 909.2}

It is not the will of God that His people should be weighed down with care. But our Lord does not deceive us. He does not say to us, “Do not fear; there are no dangers in your path.” He knows there are trials and dangers, and He deals with us plainly. He does not propose to take His people out of a world of sin and evil, but He points them to a never-failing refuge. . . . {TMK 225.2}

All heaven has been looking on with interest, and ready to do whatever God might appoint, to help fallen men and women to become what God would have them. God will work for His children, but not without their cooperation. They must have indomitable energy, and a constant desire to become all that it is possible for them to be. {RC 296.3}

Satan is not permitted to counterfeit the manner of Christ's advent. The Saviour has warned His people against deception upon this point, and has clearly foretold the manner of His second coming. . . . This coming there is no possibility of counterfeiting. It will be universally known—witnessed by the whole world. {GC 625.2}

It was by deception that Satan seduced angels; thus he has in all ages carried forward his work among men, and he will continue this policy to the last. Should he openly profess to be warring against God and His law, men would beware; but he disguises himself, and mixes truth with error. The most dangerous falsehoods are those that are mingled with truth. It is thus that errors are received that captivate and ruin the soul. By this means Satan carries the world with him. But a day is coming when his triumph will be forever ended. {PP 338.3}

God's dealings with rebellion will result in fully unmasking the work that has so long been carried on under cover. The results of Satan's rule, the fruits of setting aside the divine statutes, will be laid open to the view of all created intelligences. The law of God will stand fully vindicated. It will be seen that all the dealings of God have been conducted with reference to the eternal good of His people, and the good of all the worlds that He has created. Satan himself, in the presence of the witnessing universe, will confess the justice of God's government and the righteousness of His law. {PP 338.4}

This Holy Book has withstood the assaults of Satan, who has united with evil men to make everything of divine character shrouded in clouds and darkness. But the Lord has preserved this Holy Book by His own miraculous power in its present shape—a chart or guidebook to the human family to show them the way to heaven. {1SM 15.3}

The Bible is not given to us in grand superhuman language. Jesus, in order to reach man where he is, took humanity. The Bible must be given in the language of men. Everything that is human is imperfect. Different meanings are expressed by the same word; there is not one word for each distinct idea. The Bible was given for practical purposes. {1SM 20.2}

The Creator of all ideas may impress different minds with the same thought, but each may express it in a different way, yet without contradiction. The fact that this difference exists should not perplex or confuse us. It is seldom that two persons will view and express truth in the very same way. Each dwells on particular points which his constitution and education have fitted him to appreciate. The sunlight falling upon the different objects gives those objects a different hue. {1SM 22.1}

Through the inspiration of His Spirit the Lord gave His apostles truth, to be expressed according to the development of their minds by the Holy Spirit. But the mind is not cramped, as if forced into a certain mold.— Letter 53, 1900. {1SM 22.2}

It is the glory of the gospel that it is founded upon the principle of restoring in the fallen race the divine image by a constant manifestation of benevolence. This work began in the heavenly courts. . . . The Godhead was stirred with pity for the race, and the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit gave themselves to the working out of the plan of redemption. {AG 190.2}

Sin had become a science, and vice was consecrated as a part of religion. Rebellion had struck its roots deep into the heart, and the hostility of man was most violent against heaven. It was demonstrated before the universe that, apart from God, humanity could not be uplifted. A new element of life and power must be imparted by Him who made the world. {DA 37.1}

With intense interest the unfallen worlds had watched to see Jehovah arise, and sweep away the inhabitants of the earth. And if God should do this, Satan was ready to carry out his plan for securing to himself the allegiance of heavenly beings. He had declared that the principles of God's government make forgiveness impossible. Had the world been destroyed, he would have claimed that his accusations were proved true. He was ready to cast blame upon God, and to spread his rebellion to the worlds above. But instead of destroying the world, God sent His Son to save it. Though corruption and defiance might be seen in every part of the alien province, a way for its recovery was provided. At the very crisis, when Satan seemed about to triumph, the Son of God came with the embassy of divine grace. Through every age, through every hour, the love of God had been exercised toward the fallen race. Notwithstanding the perversity of men, the signals of mercy had been continually exhibited. And when the fullness of the time had come, the Deity was glorified by pouring upon the world a flood of healing grace that was never to be obstructed or withdrawn till the plan of salvation should be fulfilled. {DA 37.2}

Satan was exulting that he had succeeded in debasing the image of God in humanity. Then Jesus came to restore in man the image of his Maker. None but Christ can fashion anew the character that has been ruined by sin. He came to expel the demons that had controlled the will. He came to lift us up from the dust, to reshape the marred character after the pattern of His divine character, and to make it beautiful with His own glory. {DA 37.3}