

Pine Knoll Sabbath School Study Notes
Second Quarter 2018: *Preparation for the End Time*
Lesson 13 “The Return of Our Lord Jesus”

Read for this week’s study

Isaiah 13:6, 9; Matthew 24:30, 31; Daniel 2:34, 35; 2 Timothy 4:6–8; 2 Thessalonians 1:7–10.

Memory Text

“For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be” (Matthew 24:27).

Lesson Outline from Adult Sabbath School Study Guide

- I. Introduction
- II. The Day of the Lord
- III. Daniel and the Second Coming of Jesus
- IV. Long-Term Prospects
- V. In the Clouds of Heaven
- VI. The Living and the Dead
- VII. Further Study

Questions and Notes for Consideration

Facilitator: Daniel Duda

1. “This week, we will talk about the final of all final events, at least as far as our present world is concerned: the second coming of our Lord Jesus.” (Sabbath afternoon)
2. In what way is the second coming ‘the final of all final events’? Is there nothing after the second coming?
3. “With the doctrine of the second coming of Jesus, the New Testament authors didn’t reveal a new truth; instead, they greatly enhanced a truth that had already been revealed in the Bible. Only now, in light of the crucified and risen Savior, can the promise of the Second Coming be more fully understood and appreciated.” (Sunday’s lesson) What is the relationship between the Second Coming (NT) and the Day of the Lord (OT)?
4. “This theme, that of the ‘day of the LORD’ as a time of judgment against the wicked but also a time when God’s faithful are protected and rewarded, is found in the Old Testament.” (Sunday’s lesson)

5. “Perhaps nothing else in the Old Testament reveals as clearly as does Daniel 2 the truth that the new world does not grow out of the old one, but instead is a new and radically different creation.” (Monday’s lesson) What is the significance of Daniel 2 for a) the original audience, b) people in Papua New Guinea, c) and us today?
6. “Thanks to the God of origins, our long-term prospects are very good. We have so much to be hopeful for in the future, and this hope rests on the promise of Jesus’ second coming.” (Tuesday’s lesson) What is so hopeful about the hope that we have?
7. “Regardless of his immediate circumstances, which were dismal at best (in jail, waiting to be executed), Paul knows his long-term prospects are very good. And that is because he was looking at the big picture, not focusing only on the immediate situation.” (Tuesday’s lesson) What does looking at the big picture mean to you? Why is it so important? Depending on our understanding about God and how He runs His universe, is it possible to shrink that ‘big picture’ into a very small, narrow one?
8. “Those who believe in Jesus do, indeed, die. However, as Jesus said, though they may die, they will live again. This is what the resurrection of the dead is all about. And this is what makes the second coming of Jesus so central to all our hopes.” (Thursday’s lesson)
9. While resurrection is certainly an important biblical doctrine, what are its practical implications? Is the goal of history to resuscitate the faithful? How does seeing the ‘big picture’ help address that question?
10. The title of this quarter is ‘Preparation for the End Time’ – what is the essence and purpose of that preparation? What is the goal? Why does Jesus say: Be therefore ready? Is ‘being ready’ an ‘individual sport/achievement’ or do we need the involvement of others in this journey?
11. What is ‘the bigger picture’ of how the story ends? Why is it important? What are the consequences of the “happy ending”?

Thoughts from Graham Maxwell

We know that when Jesus returns, he will come to a generation of believers who will have experienced Satan’s final desperate attempt to deceive and destroy God’s loyal children on this planet. This generation of believers will have succeeded in accomplishing something that one third of the brilliant angels failed to do. They will have refused to be turned against God by Satan’s lies. They will have been able to say with Paul, “If anyone, if even an angel from heaven, should come with a different version of the everlasting good news, a different picture of God, he is wrong and we will not believe it.”

Lest we underestimate the seriousness of these final times of confusion and deception and lest we underestimate Satan's cunning and persuasive power, there are vivid descriptions of this time to come, both in the Old Testament and New, beyond even the ones that we included in our Bible Reference Sheet last time. Look, for example, at the first one, Daniel 12:1, 3, familiar words to many of us:

There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then [remember the book of Revelation 13, last time? The whole world will worship the adversary except those whose names were written in this book]. But at that time your people—everyone whose name is found written in the book—will be delivered. . . . Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever. (NIV)

Notice in this passage as in many others, the saints who survive the time of deception and confusion not only survive themselves, but they are always described as leading others to righteousness. Our concern is not only to survive, but to bear an encouraging witness to the truth about our God. {Graham Maxwell. Excerpt from the audio series, Conversations About God, #18, "God Waits for His Children to Grow Up" 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/18MMCAG>

Now, in more detail, what is this truth in which we simply must be settled and sealed, so that despite the devil's most convincing efforts to the contrary, we cannot be moved? What would you suggest for the list of truths? Is it the truth that God exists and that he is infinitely powerful? Well, the devils believe that and it scares them. Is it the truth that the end is coming soon? Satan agrees that it is coming soon and he works all the harder. He is settled into those two things. Is it the truth that the seventh-day is the Sabbath? Is it the truth that we should keep all ten of the Ten Commandments, that we should read our Bibles faithfully as God's word? Is it the truth that we should pay a careful tithe and be very careful about what we eat and be very careful how we associate with sinners who might lead us astray? Not to minimize those matters.

Should we not recall, as a warning, the very pious beliefs and practices of those who nailed Jesus to the cross and then rushed home to keep the seventh-day Sabbath holy, with their tithe paid up and no forbidden food in their stomachs? Evidently the truth into which we must be sealed is far more than just the list of beliefs I mentioned, important as they are.

Throughout the Bible, the all-important truth, the saving truth, is above all else the truth about our God. Jesus came to bring us this truth about his Father, so that we might be won back to God in love and trust. God can heal and save all who trust him. You remember all that Jesus

said in the verses from John 14, above. When the Spirit comes, he will bring to our remembrance the things that Jesus has said about the Father. Remember in Ephesians 1:17, the Holy Spirit will come so that we may know God better. That's the consistent picture of the truth, the subject of the truth, the essence of the truth that runs all through Scripture.

Could I ask you, do you, do we, really accept Jesus' picture of the Father? Do we really accept the testimony of Jesus about his Father? Let's be really specific. Take John 16:26, a statement about his Father that Jesus said has no symbols in it. It is not figures of speech. It is not parables. He said, "The time has come for me to tell you plainly and clearly about my Father." You know the words that followed. "There is no need for me to pray the Father for you. For the Father himself loves you." Do you accept that? Do you so accept it that it's an integral part of your whole theology and understanding of the plan of salvation? Or are you still unable to accept what Jesus described as a plain clear statement of the truth about his Father? There is no need for the Son to plead with the Father in our behalf, because the Father loves us just as much as the Son.

Let's recall other things that he said. The Spirit brings these back to our remembrance. John 12, John 14: "If you see me, you've seen the Father." "If you know me, you know the Father." Do we believe that the Father is just as gracious as the Son? Is that an integral part of our Christian theology? Did anyone need to reconcile Christ Jesus to us as sinners? Did anything need to be done to assuage and appease the wrath of gentle Jesus and win him to our side? Then, if we believe his testimony about the Father, nothing had to be done to reconcile the Father to us either. He loves us just as much as the Son.

Are we so settled into this truth about our God that we cannot be moved? Are we still easily swayed to and fro by every wind of doctrine? Remember Ephesians 4:14, 15, the next verse on the list:

We are no longer to be children, tossed by the waves and whirled about by every fresh gust of teaching, dupes of crafty rogues and their deceitful schemes. No, let us speak the truth in love; so shall we fully grow up into Christ. (NEB)

We should ask ourselves, are we still such children in the faith, babes in the truth, that we need emergency measures to be reverent toward our God and to do what is right? If we still need those measures, we are still babes. {Graham Maxwell. Excerpt from the audio series, Conversations About God, #18, "God Waits for His Children to Grow Up" 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/18MMCAG>*

Recommended Listening:

The Picture of God in all 66—Hosea is available at:

<http://pkp.cc/41MMPOGIA66> (Part 1) <http://pkp.cc/42MMPOGIA66> (Part 2)

The Picture of God in all 66—Joel and Amos is available at:

<http://pkp.cc/43MMPOGIA66> (Part 1) <http://pkp.cc/44MMPOGIA66> (Part 2)

Conversations About God #18 “God Waits for His Children to Grow Up” is available at:

<http://pkp.cc/18MMCAG>

Further Study with Ellen White

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}

There the redeemed shall know, even as also they are known. The loves and sympathies which God Himself has planted in the soul shall there 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 who have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb, the sacred ties that bind together “the whole family in heaven and earth” (Ephesians 3:15)—these help to constitute the happiness of the redeemed. {GC 677.1}

There, immortal minds will contemplate with never-failing delight the wonders of creative power, the mysteries of redeeming love. There will be no cruel, deceiving foe to tempt to forgetfulness of God. Every faculty will be developed, every capacity increased. The acquirement of knowledge will not weary the mind or exhaust the energies. There the grandest enterprises may be carried forward, the loftiest aspirations reached, the highest ambitions realized; and still there will arise new heights to surmount, new wonders to admire, new truths to comprehend, fresh objects to call forth the powers of mind and soul and body. {GC 677.2}

God created the earth to be the abode of holy, happy beings. That purpose will be fulfilled when, renewed by the power of God and freed from sin and sorrow, it shall become the eternal home of the redeemed. {AH 540.3}

And the education begun in this life will be continued in the life to come. Day by day the wonderful works of God, the evidences of His wisdom and power in creating and sustaining the universe, the infinite mystery of love and wisdom in the plan of redemption, will open to the mind in new beauty. "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him." 1 Corinthians 2:9. Even in this life we may catch glimpses of His presence and may taste the joy of communion with Heaven, but the fullness of its joy and blessing will be reached in the hereafter. Eternity alone can reveal the glorious destiny to which man, restored to God's image, may attain. {PP 602.1}

We want all to understand how the soul is destroyed. It is not that God sends out a decree that man shall not be saved. He does not throw a darkness before the eyes which cannot be penetrated. But man at first resists a motion of the Spirit of God, and, having once resisted, it is less difficult to do so the second time, less the third, and far less the fourth. {5T 120.2}

We have now come to the last days of the work of the third angel's message, when Satan will work with increasing power because he knows that his time is short. At the same time there will come to us through the gifts of the Holy Spirit, diversities of operations in the outpouring of the Spirit. This is the time of the latter rain.—Letter 230, 1908. {3SM 83.2}