

## Pine Knoll Sabbath School Study Notes

### Fourth Quarter 2022: *Life Everlasting: On Death, Dying, and the Future Hope*

#### Lesson 4 “The Old Testament Hope”

#### Read for this week’s study

Job 19:25–27; 1 Timothy 6:16; Psalm 49; Psalm 71; Isaiah 26:14, 19; Daniel 12.

#### Memory Text

“By faith Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He who had received the promises was ready to offer up his only son. . . . He considered the fact that God is able even to raise someone from the dead—and figuratively speaking, he did receive him back” (Hebrews 11:17, 19, NRSV).

#### Lesson Outline from Adult Sabbath School Study Guide

- I. Introduction
- II. “I Shall See God”
- III. From the Power of the Grave
- IV. “From the Depths of the Earth”
- V. “Your Dead Shall Live”
- VI. Those Who Sleep in the Dust
- VII. Further Study

#### Questions and Notes for Consideration

##### Facilitator: Jon Paulien

1. The ancient Greeks, going back to Homer, had a very straightforward opinion about bodily resurrection from the dead: It simply doesn’t happen. When you die, you’re dead, and that’s the end of it all. There is no ongoing existence or consciousness. For them, death was like a one-way street, you can travel down that street, but once at your destination you can’t come back. Later on, after Plato, many Greeks began to believe in life after death, but they were not talking about bodily life after death. For them, the immaterial soul lived on apart from the body after death, but they still did not believe in a resurrection of the body. For Plato and others, death affects only the body, not the soul. So Christianity was born into a world where its central claim, the bodily resurrection of Jesus, was “known” to be false. Outside Judaism, nobody believed in resurrection, at least not in the way the Bible defines it.
2. Christians are so used to reading the Old Testament with the New Testament in mind that they overlook the fact that mention of a bodily resurrection is pretty rare in the Old Testament. Most of the Old Testament reads a lot like Homer. Read 2

Samuel 14:14a, Job 7:7-10, 10:20-22, 14:7-12 for examples. Why do you think many Old Testament saints did not seem particularly troubled by the lack of a resurrection hope?

3. There are, however, a couple of explicit texts and several hints of a belief in bodily resurrection in the Old Testament. The clearest expression of bodily resurrection in the Old Testament is found in Daniel 12:1-3. What is the context of this resurrection passage (Dan 11:40-45)? Who is Michael in this passage? Why do you think death is referred to as “sleep” in this passage? When the text speaks of “many” arising from the dead at the End, is this referring to the resurrection of all or of a special segment of humanity? Regardless of your answer, this is a clear expression of resurrection in the OT. One further aspect of Daniel 12 is its allusions to earlier OT passages like Isaiah 26:19, 53:10-12, 65:20-22, and 66:24. (Thursday’s Lesson)
4. The other explicit OT resurrection text is Isaiah 26:19. What evidence of bodily resurrection do you find in this text? The context of this verse is verses 13-14, where the enemies of God’s people are truly dead with no chance of returning. How does Isaiah 25:7-8 prepare the way for 26:19? How does Isaiah 26:19 allude to the language of Hosea 6:1-3? (Wednesday’s Lesson)
5. There is a third Old Testament text that many feel is a clear reference to bodily resurrection, but it may be clearer in some English translations than in the Hebrew text. Read Job 19:25-27. What does Job mean by “my redeemer”? In what context does Job expect to see God? What implications do John 1:18 and 1 Timothy 6:16 have for our understanding of Job? (Sunday’s Lesson)
6. The lesson highlighted several other Old Testament passages regarding resurrection. What do you learn about resurrection from Psalm 49:10-15 and 71:20? Read Ezekiel 37:1-14, Isaiah 53:7-12, Hosea 6:1-3 and 13:14. How do these texts anticipate the fuller understanding of resurrection found in the New Testament? (Monday and Tuesday’s Lesson)
7. To what degree is God indebted to pre-existing matter in restoring our bodies at the resurrection? Are there some recent scientific findings about the sub-atomic world that may help us understand the process of resurrection?

### Further Study with Ellen White

Christ came to reveal to a fallen race the love of God. He, the Light of the world, veiled the dazzling splendor of the brightness of His divinity, and came to live on this earth as a man among men, that they might, without being consumed, become acquainted with their Creator. No man has seen God at any time, except as He is revealed through Christ. {UL 334.5}

By prayer, by the study of His word, by faith in His abiding presence, the weakest of human beings may live in contact with the living Christ, and He will hold them by a hand that will never let go. {MH 182.1}

If you ask the help of God, you will not ask in vain. The Lord is at work in many ways to win your hearty confidence. In nothing does He take more delight than to have you unburden, come to Him for light and strength, and He has promised that you shall find rest to your soul. If you will find heart and voice to pray, He will be sure to hear, and an arm will be reached down to save you. There is a God that hears prayer, and when all other resources fail, He is your refuge, a very present help in time of trouble. . . . {TDG 184.4}

The character of God as revealed by Christ invites our faith and love, for we have a Father whose mercy and compassion fail not. At every step of our journey heavenward He will be with us to guide in every perplexity, to give us help in every temptation. {HP 16.4}

It is God's glory to encircle sinful, repentant human beings in the arms of His love, to bind up their wounds, to cleanse them from sin, and to clothe them with the garments of salvation. {PK 668.3}

God's everlasting arm encircles the soul that turns to Him for aid, however feeble that soul may be. {4T 328.1}

The Lord has His eye upon every soul that is seeking Him. He is interested in every soul needing help, and He will not leave one in the darkness of error, but step by step will lead him into the full light of the truth that is shining from every page of the Scriptures. . . . How kind, how tender, our Great Shepherd is! With intense interest He looks down from His exalted throne upon the sheep of His pasture, and gives them grace and strength. . . . {HP 322.3}

Constantly the heavenly agencies are communicating with men and women on the earth. We cannot see personally the angels of God round about us; nevertheless they are with us, guiding and directing. {HP 322.4}

Could your eyes be opened, you would see your heavenly Father bending over you in love and could you hear His voice, it would be in tones of compassion to you who are prostrate with suffering and affliction. Stand fast in His strength; there is rest for you, the weary.—Letter 71, Dec. 5, 1878, to J. N. Andrews. {TDG 348.4}

We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and his teaching in our past history. {RH, October 12, 1905 par. 22}

Every weak, doubting, struggling soul who yields fully to the Lord is placed in direct touch with agencies that enable him to overcome. Heaven is near to him, and he has the support and help of angels of mercy in every time of trial and need. {AA 299.1}

A guardian angel is appointed to every follower of Christ. These heavenly watchers shield the righteous from the power of the wicked one. . . . The angels appointed to minister to the children of God have at all times access to His presence. {GC 512.2}

Thus God's people, exposed to the deceptive power and unsleeping malice of the prince of darkness, and in conflict with all the forces of evil, are assured of the unceasing guardianship of heavenly angels. {GC 513.1}

The angels are with us every day, to guard and protect us from the assaults of the enemy. {TA 19.1}

You are not alone in the warfare against wrong. Could the curtain be rolled back, you would see heavenly angels fighting with you. This they must do; it is their work to guard the youth. "Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?" Ten thousand times ten thousand and thousands of thousands of angels minister to the youth.—YI Jan. 1, 1903. {TA 19.2}

God's faithful, praying ones are, as it were, shut in with Him. They themselves know not how securely they are shielded. Urged on by Satan, the rulers of this world are seeking to destroy them; but could the eyes of God's children be opened as were the eyes of Elisha's servant at Dothan, they would see angels of God encamped about them, holding in check the hosts of darkness. {PK 590.3}

The omnipotent power of the Holy Spirit is the defense of every contrite soul. Not one that in penitence and faith has claimed His protection will Christ permit to pass under the enemy's power. The Saviour is by the side of His tempted and tried ones. With Him there can be no such thing as failure, loss, impossibility, or defeat; we can do all things through Him who strengthens us. When temptations and trials come, do not wait to adjust all the difficulties, but look to Jesus, your helper. {DA 490.5}

But though the conflict is a ceaseless one, none are left to struggle alone. Angels help and protect those who walk humbly before God. Never will our Lord betray one who trusts in Him. As His children draw near to Him for protection from evil, in pity and love He lifts up for them a standard against the enemy. Touch them not, He says; for they are Mine. I have graven them upon the palms of My hands. {PK 570.4}

If in our ignorance we make missteps, the Saviour does not forsake us. We need never feel that we are alone. Angels are our companions. The Comforter that Christ promised to send in His name abides with us. In the way that leads to the City of God there are no difficulties which those who trust in Him may not overcome. There are no dangers which they may not escape. There is not a sorrow, not a grievance, not a human weakness, for which He has not provided a remedy. {MH 249.1}

During His ministry, Jesus had raised the dead to life. He had raised the son of the widow of Nain, and the ruler's daughter and Lazarus. But these were not clothed with immortality. After they were raised, they were still subject to death. But those who came forth from the grave at Christ's resurrection were raised to everlasting life. They ascended with Him as trophies of His victory over death and the grave. These, said Christ, are no longer the captives of Satan; I have redeemed them. I have brought them from the grave as the first fruits of My power, to be with Me where I am, nevermore to see death or experience sorrow. {DA 786.2}

Jesus Christ has triumphed over death and rent the fetters of the tomb, and all who sleep in the tomb will share the victory; they will come forth from their graves as did the Conqueror. . . . {2SM 272.1}

Amid the reeling of the earth, the flash of lightning, and the roar of thunder, the voice of the Son of God calls forth the sleeping saints. He looks upon the graves of the righteous, then, raising His hands to heaven, He cries: "Awake, awake, awake, ye that sleep in the dust, and arise!" Throughout the length and breadth of the earth the dead shall hear that voice, and they that hear shall live. And the whole earth shall ring with the tread of the exceeding great army of every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. From the prison house of death they come, clothed with immortal glory, crying: "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?" 1 Corinthians 15:55. And the living righteous and the risen saints unite their voices in a long, glad shout of victory. {Mar 299.3}

He [the believer] may die, as Christ died, but the life of the Saviour is in him. His life is hid with Christ in God. "I am come that they might have life," Jesus said, "and that they might have it more abundantly." He carries on the great process by which believers are made one with Him in this present life, to be one with Him throughout all eternity. . . . {Mar 301.4}

The eye of God, looking down the ages, was fixed upon the crisis which His people are to meet, when earthly powers shall be arrayed against them. Like the captive exile, they will be in fear of death by starvation or by violence. But the Holy One who divided the Red Sea before Israel, will manifest His mighty power and turn their captivity. . . . Glorious will be the deliverance of those who have patiently waited for His coming and whose names are written in the book of life. {GC 634.1}