

# Sabbath School Lesson

1st Quarter 2023 | January - March

# The Bible



**Sabbath School Lesson**

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2022 First Quarter

# The Bible

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## Reference Materials

Sabbath School 1893, Q1

Bible readings for the  
Home 1888

Questions and answers,  
Wilcox, 1911

Bible Handbook

Principles of Life

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## Ellen White References

**AA - The Acts of the Apostles**  
**COL - Christ's Object Lessons**  
**CSW - Counsels on Sabbath School Work**  
**CT - Counsels to Parents, Teachers and Students**  
**CW - Counsels to Writers and Editors**  
**DA - The Desire of Ages**  
**Ed - Education**  
**FLB - The Faith I Live By**  
**GC - The Great Controversy**  
**MH - The Ministry of Healing**  
**PP - Patriarchs and Prophets**  
**RH - Review and Herald**  
**SC - Steps to Christ**  
**SD - Sons and Daughters of God**  
**1SM - Selected Messages Book 1**  
**2SM - Selected Messages Book 2**  
**ST - Signs of the Times**  
**TM - Testimonies for Ministers and Gospel Workers**  
**1T - Testimonies for the Church volume 1**  
**5T - Testimonies for the Church volume 5**  
**8T - Testimonies for the Church volume 8**

# 1 CHRIST: THE WORD OF GOD

## LESSON 1



### ADDITIONAL READING

**The Desire of Ages, chapter 1 - "God With Us".**  
[https://egwwritings.org/read?panels=p130.22\(130.21\)&index=0#highlight=174.38|0](https://egwwritings.org/read?panels=p130.22(130.21)&index=0#highlight=174.38|0)

**Patriarchs and Prophets, chapter 1**  
[https://egwwritings.org/read?panels=p84.69\(84.68\)&index=0#highlight=1704.38|0](https://egwwritings.org/read?panels=p84.69(84.68)&index=0#highlight=1704.38|0)

**Suggested Video:**  
A. Ebens - Divine Pattern How Do You Read?  
<https://youtu.be/watch?v=Bd1qnlwd5Lw>

- Hymns:**
- "Seeking for me"
  - 245: "More about Jesus"
  - 334: "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"



### LESSON



1. Who was in the beginning? Who was He with, and who was He?  
John 1:1, 2, 14, 18.

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2. What is the relationship between the Word and God? Hebrews 1:4-6

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3. Concerning all things, what is said of them in relation to the Father and in relation to Jesus Christ? 1 Corinthians 8:6

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**MEMORY VERSE:** **John 1:1**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 The same was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

4. By whom were all things made? For whom were they created?  
Hebrews 1:2; Colossians 1:16

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5. Is there anything created that was not made by Him? John 1:3

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6. Who came into this world? John 1:14

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7. What was it that the disciples could hear, see, and handle?  
What was it that was manifested and announced to them? 1 John 1:1-3

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8. What is the testimony of what the disciples experienced? 1 John 1:5

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9. Is there anyone who knows God? Who? Matthew 11:27

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10. Who reveals or makes God known? Luke 10:22; John 1:18

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11. What did Christ reveal about God? How complete was Christ's revelation of  
the Father? John 17:4, 6-8; 14:9

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12. Who spoke unto the fathers? By whom did He do it? What relationship did  
Christ have with the Old Testament prophets? Hebrews 1:1; 1 Corinthians 15:27;  
1 Peter 1:10-11

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1. But turning from all lesser representations, we behold God in Jesus. Looking unto Jesus we see that it is the glory of our God to give. "I do nothing of Myself," said Christ; "the living Father hath sent Me, and I live by the Father." "I seek not Mine own glory," but the glory of Him that sent Me. John 8:28; 6:57; 8:50; 7:18. In these words is set forth the great principle which is the law of life for the universe. All things Christ received from God, but He took to give. So in the heavenly courts, in His ministry for all created beings: through the beloved Son, the Father's life flows out to all; through the Son it returns, in praise and joyous service, a tide of love, to the great Source of all. And thus through Christ the circuit of beneficence is complete, representing the character of the great Giver, the law of life. DA 21.2

2. 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. PP 34.1

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. Psalm 89:14. PP 34.2

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. PP 34.3



3. "His name shall be called Immanuel, ... God with us." "The light of the knowledge of the glory of God" is seen "in the face of Jesus Christ." From the days of eternity the Lord Jesus Christ was one with the Father; He was "the image of God," the image of His greatness and majesty, "the outshining of His glory." It was to manifest this glory that He came to our world. To this sin-darkened earth He came to reveal the light of God's love,—to be "God with us." Therefore it was prophesied of Him, "His name shall be called Immanuel." DA 19.1

By coming to dwell with us, Jesus was to reveal God both to men and to angels. He was the Word of God,—God's thought made audible. In His prayer for His disciples He says, "I have declared unto them Thy name,"—"merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth,"—"that the love wherewith Thou hast loved Me may be in them, and I in them." But not alone for His earthborn children was this revelation given. Our little world is the lesson book of the universe. God's wonderful purpose of grace, the mystery of redeeming love, is the theme into which "angels desire to look," and it will be their study throughout endless ages. Both the redeemed and the unfallen beings will find in the cross of Christ their science and their song. It will be seen that the glory shining in the face of Jesus is the glory of self-sacrificing love. In the light from Calvary it will be seen that the law of self-renouncing love is the law of life for earth and heaven; that the love which "seeketh not her own" has its source in the heart of God; and that in the meek and lowly One is manifested the character of Him who dwelleth in the light which no man can approach unto. DA 19.2

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4. The Son of God came from heaven to make manifest the Father. "No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, He hath declared Him." John 1:18. "Neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal Him." Matthew 11:27. When one of the disciples made the request, "Show us the Father," Jesus answered, "Have I been o long time with you, and yet hast thou not known Me, Philip? He that hath seen Me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father?" John 14:8, 9. SC 11.1

In describing His earthly mission, Jesus said, The Lord "hath anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He hath sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised." Luke 4:18. This was His work. He went about doing good and healing all that were oppressed by Satan. SC 11.2

...  
Jesus did not suppress one word of truth, but He uttered it always in love. He exercised the greatest tact and thoughtful, kind attention in His relationships with the people. He was never rude, never needlessly spoke a severe word, never gave needless pain to a sensitive soul. He did not censure human weakness. He spoke the truth, but always in love. He denounced hypocrisy, unbelief, and iniquity; but tears were in His voice as He uttered His scathing rebukes. He wept over Jerusalem, the city He loved, which refused to receive Him, the way, the truth, and the life.



They had rejected Him, the Saviour, but He regarded them with pitying tenderness. His life was one of self-denial and thoughtful care for others. Every soul was precious in His eyes. While He ever bore Himself with divine dignity, He bowed with the tenderest regard to every member of the family of God. In all men He saw fallen souls whom it was His mission to save. SC 12.1

Such is the character of Christ as revealed in His life. This is the character of God. It is from the Father's heart that the streams of divine compassion, manifest in Christ, flow out to the children of men. Jesus, the tender, pitying Saviour, was God "manifest in the flesh." 1 Timothy 3:16. SC 12.2

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None but the Son of God could accomplish our redemption; for only He who was in the bosom of the Father could declare Him. Only He who knew the height and depth of the love of God could make it manifest. Nothing less than the infinite sacrifice made by Christ in behalf of fallen man could express the Father's love to lost humanity. SC 14.2

"God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son." He gave Him not only to live among men, to bear their sins, and die their sacrifice. He gave Him to the fallen race. Christ was to identify Himself with the interests and needs of humanity. He who was one with God has linked Himself with the children of men by ties that are never to be broken. Jesus is "not ashamed to call them brethren" (Hebrews 2:11); He is our Sacrifice, our Advocate, our Brother, bearing our human form before the Father's throne, and through eternal ages one with the race He has redeemed—the Son of man. And all this that man might be uplifted from the ruin and degradation of sin that he might reflect the love of God and share the joy of holiness. SC 14.3

# 2 THE BIBLE: THE WORD OF GOD

## LESSON 2



### ADDITIONAL READING

#### The Great Controversy, Introduction.

[https://egwwritings.org/read?panels=p132.22\(132.21\)&index=0#highlight=1710.37|0](https://egwwritings.org/read?panels=p132.22(132.21)&index=0#highlight=1710.37|0)

#### Steps to Christ, chapter 10 - "A knowledge of God"

[https://egwwritings.org/read?panels=p108.333\(108.332\)&index=0#highlight=108.332|0](https://egwwritings.org/read?panels=p108.333(108.332)&index=0#highlight=108.332|0)

#### Hymns:

- 413: "God Has Spoken by His Prophets"
- 273: "Lord, I Have Made Thy Word My choice"

### MEMORY VERSE:

#### 1 Thessalonians 2:13

13 For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.



### LESSON

1. According to the dictionary, what does the word Bible mean?

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2. Into what two major parts is the Bible divided? What is the event that marks both divisions? How many books make up each section? When were the first books written and by who? Who was the main writer of the Psalms, and when was that? Who compiled the Old Testament?

Moses, 1500BC; David 1000BC; Ezra 500BC

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3. In what three sections is the Old Testament divided? Luke 24:44

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4. What names does the Bible give itself? Isaiah 34:16; Luke 24:27; John 5:39; Romans 3:2; 2 Timothy 2:15; Hebrews 6:5; Matthew 26:56; Luke 8:21

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5. In the beginning, how did God communicate with man? Genesis 2:16, 17

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6. Why was this direct communication broken? Isaiah 59:2; Genesis 3:1-9

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7. After direct communication was broken, how did God reveal His will? Amos 3:7; Numbers 12:6; Psalm 119:105; Hebrews 1:1, 2

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8. What additional provision did God make so that His will would be preserved for future generations? Exodus 34:27; Numbers 33:2; Isaiah 30:8; Jeremiah 30:2; Revelation 1:1, 19

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9. How did the apostles regard the writings of the Old Testament? And how did they consider the writings of Paul? 2 Peter 3:15, 16

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10. What is the major reason for the existence of the Scriptures? John 20:31

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11. What is God capable of doing from the beginning, from ancient times? Isaiah 46:9, 10

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Written in different ages, by men who differed widely in rank and occupation, and in mental and spiritual endowments, the books of the Bible present a wide contrast in style, as well as a diversity in the nature of the subjects unfolded. Different forms of expression are employed by different writers; often the same truth is more strikingly presented by one than by another. And as several writers present a subject under varied aspects and relations, there may appear, to the superficial, careless, or prejudiced reader, to be discrepancy or contradiction, where the thoughtful, reverent student, with clearer insight, discerns the underlying harmony. GC vi.1

As presented through different individuals, the truth is brought out in its varied aspects. One writer is more strongly impressed with one phase of the subject; he grasps those points that harmonize with his experience or with his power of perception and appreciation; another seizes upon a different phase; and each, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, presents what is most forcibly impressed upon his own mind—a different aspect of the truth in each, but a perfect harmony through all. And the truths thus revealed unite to form a perfect whole, adapted to meet the wants of men in all the circumstances and experiences of life. GC vi.2

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Yet the fact that God has revealed His will to men through His word, has not rendered needless the continued presence and guiding of the Holy Spirit. On the contrary, the Spirit was promised by our Saviour, to open the word to His servants, to illuminate and apply its teachings. And since it was the Spirit of God that inspired the Bible, it is impossible that the teaching of the Spirit should ever be contrary to that of the word. GC vii.2

The Spirit was not given—nor can it ever be bestowed—to supersede the Bible; for the Scriptures explicitly state that the word of God is the standard by which all teaching and experience must be tested. Says the apostle John, “Believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.” 1 John 4:1. And Isaiah declares, “To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.” Isaiah 8:20. GC vii.3

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3. The writers of the Bible had to express their ideas in human language. It was written by human men. These men were inspired of the Holy Spirit. Because of the imperfections of human understanding of language, or the perversity of the human mind, ingenious in evading truth, many read and understand the Bible to please themselves. It is not that the difficulty is in the Bible.... FLB 11.3

The Scriptures were given to men, not in a continuous chain of unbroken utterances, but piece by piece through successive generations, as God in His providence saw a fitting opportunity to impress man at sundry times and divers places. Men wrote as they were moved upon by the Holy Ghost.... FLB 11.4

There is not always perfect order or apparent unity in the Scriptures.... The truths of the Bible are as pearls hidden. They must be searched, dug out by painstaking effort.

Those who take only a surface view of the Scriptures will, with their superficial knowledge, which they think is very deep, talk of the contradictions of the Bible, and question the authority of the Scriptures. But those whose hearts are in harmony with truth and duty will search the Scriptures with a heart prepared to receive divine impressions. The illuminated soul sees a spiritual unity, one grand golden thread running through the whole, but it requires patience, thought, and prayer to trace out the precious golden thread. FLB 11.5

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4. Faithful teachers should be placed in charge of the Bible classes, teachers who will strive to make the students understand their lessons, not by explaining everything to them, but by requiring them to explain clearly every passage they read. Let these teachers remember that little good will be accomplished by skimming over the surface of the word. Thoughtful investigation and earnest, taxing study are required in order for this word to be understood. There are truths in the word which, like veins of precious ore, are hidden beneath the surface. The hidden treasure is discovered as it is searched for, as a miner searches for gold and silver. The evidence of the truth of God's word is in the word itself. Scripture is the key that unlocks scripture. The deep meaning of the truths of God's word is unfolded to our minds by His Spirit. 8T 157.1

The Bible is the great lessonbook for the students in our schools. It teaches the whole will of God concerning the sons and daughters of Adam. It is the rule of life, teaching us of the character that we must form for the future life. We need not the dim light of tradition to make the Scriptures comprehensible. As well might we suppose that the noonday sun needs the glimmering torchlight of earth to increase its glory. The utterances of priest and minister are not needed to save men from error. Those who consult the divine Oracle will have light. In the Bible every duty is made plain. Every lesson given is comprehensible. Every lesson reveals to us the Father and the Son. The word is able to make all wise unto salvation. In the word the science of salvation is plainly revealed. Search the Scriptures, for they are the voice of God speaking to the soul. 8T 157.2

# 3 THE BIBLE'S ORIGIN

## LESSON 3



### ADDITIONAL READING

**Selected Messages, ch. 1 -  
"The Inspiration of the Prophetic Writers".**

[https://egwwritings.org/read?panels=p98.37\(98.35\)&index=0#highlight=1777.83|0](https://egwwritings.org/read?panels=p98.37(98.35)&index=0#highlight=1777.83|0)

### Hymns:

- "Holy Bible, Book Divine"
- "The Theme of the Bible is Jesus"

### MEMORY VERSE:

**1 Peter 1:10-12**

10 Of which salvation the prophets have inquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: 11 Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. 12 Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with t he Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.



### LESSON

1. Who gave Moses what he wrote? John 5:46-47 (Compare with Acts 7:38; Exodus 23:20-21; Hebrews 1:4)

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2. According to Jesus, who wrote the book of Exodus? Mark 12:26

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3. Who inspired the prophets? 2 Peter 1:20-21; 1 Peter 1:10-11

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4. What was the origin of the messages written by the biblical writers?  
2 Chronicles 36:15; Isaiah 38:1; Jeremiah 1:1, 2; Ezekiel 1:1-3; Obadiah 1:1;  
Jonah 1:1; 2 Peter 1:21; 1 Peter 1:11

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5. What instruction was given to Joshua concerning the law, or commonly called the Pentateuch? Joshua 1:7-8

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6. Could the prophets change God's message? Numbers 22:18; 23:26

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7. How serious was it for a prophet to go against God's revealed will? 1 Kings 13:7-24

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8. What means did God use to communicate with the prophets? Numbers 12:6

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9. How is the revelation process like? Revelation 1:1, 19

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10. How much of the Scriptures are inspired? How were they given?  
2 Timothy 3:16

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11. Who then spoke through the prophets? Hebrews 1:1

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1. As the years rolled on, and he wandered with his flocks in solitary places, pondering upon the oppressed condition of his people, he recounted the dealings of God with his fathers and the promises that were the heritage of the chosen nation, and his prayers for Israel ascended by day and by night. Heavenly angels shed their light around him. Here, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, he [Moses] wrote the book of Genesis. The long years spent amid the desert solitudes were rich in blessing, not alone to Moses and his people, but to the world in all succeeding ages. PP 251.1

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2. God committed the preparation of His divinely inspired Word to finite man. This Word, arranged into books, the Old and New Testaments, is the guidebook to the inhabitants of a fallen world, bequeathed to them that, by studying and obeying the directions, not one soul would lose its way to heaven. 1SM 16.3

Those who think to make the supposed difficulties of Scripture plain, in measuring by their finite rule that which is inspired and that which is not inspired, had better cover their faces, as Elijah when the still small voice spoke to him; for they are in the presence of God and holy angels, who for ages have communicated to men light and knowledge, telling them what to do and what not to do, unfolding before them scenes of thrilling interest, waymark by waymark in symbols and signs and illustrations. 1SM 17.1

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3. I take the Bible just as it is, as the Inspired Word. I believe its utterances in an entire Bible. Men arise who think they find something to criticize in God's Word. They lay it bare before others as evidence of superior wisdom. These men are, many of them, smart men, learned men, they have eloquence and talent, the whole lifework [of whom] is to unsettle minds in regard to the inspiration of the Scriptures. They influence many to see as they do. And the same work is passed on from one to another, just as Satan designed it should be, until we may see the full meaning of the words of Christ, "When the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:8). 1SM 17.3

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4. Brethren, let not a mind or hand be engaged in criticizing the Bible. It is a work that Satan delights to have any of you do, but it is not a work the Lord has pointed out for you to do. 1SM 17.4

Men should let God take care of His own Book, His living oracles, as He has done for ages. They begin to question some parts of revelation, and pick flaws in the apparent inconsistencies of this statement and that statement. Beginning at Genesis, they give up that which they deem questionable, and their minds lead on, for Satan will lead to any length they may follow in their criticism, and they see something to doubt in the whole Scriptures. Their faculties of criticism become sharpened by exercise, and they can rest on nothing with a certainty. You try to reason with these men, but your time is lost. They will exercise their power of ridicule even upon the Bible. They even become mockers, and they would be astonished if you put it to them in that light. 1SM 17.5

Brethren, cling to your Bible, as it reads, and stop your criticisms in regard to its validity, and obey the Word, and not one of you will be lost. The ingenuity of men has been exercised for ages to measure the Word of God by their finite minds and limited comprehension. If the Lord, the Author of the living oracles, would throw back the curtain and reveal His wisdom and His glory before them, they would shrink into nothingness and exclaim as did Isaiah, "I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of people of unclean lips" (Isaiah 6:5). 1SM 18.1

# 4 TRUST IN THE WORD OF GOD

## LESSON 4



### ADDITIONAL READING

**Education, chapter 14 - "Science and the Bible".**

[https://egwwritings.org/read?panels=p29.1647\(29.613\)&index=0#highlight=1702.616|0](https://egwwritings.org/read?panels=p29.1647(29.613)&index=0#highlight=1702.616|0)

**Steps to Christ, chapter 12 - "What to Do with Doubt".**

[https://egwwritings.org/read?panels=p108.423\(108.422\)&index=0#highlight=1749.429|0](https://egwwritings.org/read?panels=p108.423(108.422)&index=0#highlight=1749.429|0)

### Hymns:

- 509: "How Firm a Foundation"
- 524: "'Tis so Sweet to Trust in Jesus"

<b>MEMORY</b>	<b>Isaiah 40:8</b>
VERSE:	
The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: But the word of our God shall stand for ever.	

### LESSON //////////////////////////////////////

1. How do we know that the Bible is true? On what basis is the existence of the true God and his word established? Isaiah 41:21-23; 46:9-10; 44:7

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2. The Bible predicts the destruction of Babylon, and that it would never be rebuilt. Isaiah 13:19-20. Has it been rebuilt?

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3. Is it possible that 11 men (the disciples) were willing to die for something they knew was not true, and for someone they had known for only three and a half years?

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4. According to Jesus, is it possible to believe in Him if one does not believe in the writings of Moses? John 5:46-47. Therefore, what will the believer in Jesus do?

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5. According to what Jesus implied, what and how much of the Old Testament should we believe? Luke 24:25, 27.

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6. How did Jesus regard the poetic books or Psalms? John 10:35

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7. What importance did these authors attach to their writings? Specifically John, what does he warn about how we should regard the Bible? 1 Corinthians 14:37; Revelation 22:18-19

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8. How did Peter consider the Psalms? Acts 1:16, 20

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9. Can we have confidence in the Word of God? Proverbs 30:5; 2 Timothy 3:16, 17

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10. Is God's word pure enough to be trusted? Psalm 12:6

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11. Can we believe what the Bible says? John 17:17; Psalm 138:2;  
Hebrews 6:13, 14

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12. How long will the word of God last? Isaiah 40:8; Matthew 24:35;  
1 Peter 1:24, 25

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13. What are the characteristics of God's word? 2 Peter 1:19-21

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14. What does the word of God invite us to do? 1 Thessalonians 5:21;  
Isaiah 43:26; Proverbs 1:20-23

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1. The apostle Peter says that there are in Scripture "things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest ... unto their own destruction." 2 Peter 3:16. The difficulties of Scripture have been urged by skeptics as an argument against the Bible; but so far from this, they constitute a strong evidence of its divine inspiration. If it contained no account of God but that which we could easily comprehend; if His greatness and majesty could be grasped by finite minds, then the Bible would not bear the unmistakable credentials of divine authority. The very grandeur and mystery of the themes presented should inspire faith in it as the word of God. SC 107.1

The Bible unfolds truth with a simplicity and a perfect adaptation to the needs and longings of the human heart, that has astonished and charmed the most highly cultivated minds, while it enables the humblest and uncultured to discern the way of salvation. And yet these simply stated truths lay hold upon subjects so elevated, so far-reaching, so infinitely beyond the power of human comprehension, that we can accept them only because God has declared them. Thus the plan of redemption is laid open to us, so that every soul may see the steps he is to take in repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ, in order to be saved in God's appointed way; yet beneath these truths, so easily understood, lie mysteries that are the hiding of His glory—mysteries that overpower the mind in its research, yet inspire the sincere seeker for truth with reverence and faith. The more he searches the Bible, the deeper is his conviction that it is the word of the living God, and human reason bows before the majesty of divine revelation. SC 107.2

To acknowledge that we cannot fully comprehend the great truths of the Bible is only to admit that the finite mind is inadequate to grasp the infinite; that man, with his limited, human knowledge, cannot understand the purposes of Omniscience. SC 108.1

Because they cannot fathom all its mysteries, the skeptic and the infidel reject God's word; and not all who profess to believe the Bible are free from danger on this point. The apostle says, "Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God." Hebrews 3:12. It is right to study closely the teachings of the Bible and to search into "the deep things of God" so far as they are revealed in Scripture. 1 Corinthians 2:10. While "the secret things belong unto the Lord our God," "those things which are revealed belong unto us." Deuteronomy 29:29. But it is Satan's work to pervert the investigative powers of the mind. A certain pride is mingled with the consideration of Bible truth, so that men feel impatient and defeated if they cannot explain every portion of Scripture to their satisfaction. It is too humiliating to them to acknowledge that they do not understand the inspired words. They are unwilling to wait patiently until God shall see fit to reveal the truth to them. They feel that their unaided human wisdom is sufficient to enable them to comprehend the Scripture, and failing to do this, they virtually deny its authority. It is true that many theories and doctrines popularly supposed to be derived from the Bible have no foundation in its teaching, and indeed are contrary to the whole tenor



of inspiration. These things have been a cause of doubt and perplexity to many minds. They are not, however, chargeable to God's word, but to man's perversion of it. SC 108.2

If it were possible for created beings to attain to a full understanding of God and His works, then, having reached this point, there would be for them no further discovery of truth, no growth in knowledge, no further development of mind or heart. God would no longer be supreme; and man, having reached the limit of knowledge and attainment, would cease to advance. Let us thank God that it is not so. God is infinite; in Him are "all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." Colossians 2:3. And to all eternity men may be ever searching, ever learning, and yet never exhaust the treasures of His wisdom, His goodness, and His power. SC 109.1

God intends that even in this life the truths of His word shall be ever unfolding to His people. There is only one way in which this knowledge can be obtained. We can attain to an understanding of God's word only through the illumination of that Spirit by which the word was given. "The things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God;" "for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God." 1 Corinthians 2:11, 10. And the Saviour's promise to His followers was, "When He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth.... For He shall receive of Mine, and shall show it unto you." John 16:13, 14. SC 109.2

God desires man to exercise his reasoning powers; and the study of the Bible will strengthen and elevate the mind as no other study can. Yet we are to beware of deifying reason, which is subject to the weakness and infirmity of humanity. If we would not have the Scriptures clouded to our understanding, so that the plainest truths shall not be comprehended, we must have the simplicity and faith of a little child, ready to learn, and beseeching the aid of the Holy Spirit. A sense of the power and wisdom of God, and of our inability to comprehend His greatness, should inspire us with humility, and we should open His word, as we would enter His presence, with holy awe. When we come to the Bible, reason must acknowledge an authority superior to itself, and heart and intellect must bow to the great I AM. SC 109.3

... When the word of God is opened without reverence and without prayer; when the thoughts and affections are not fixed upon God, or in harmony with His will, the mind is clouded with doubts; and in the very study of the Bible, skepticism strengthens. The enemy takes control of the thoughts, and he suggests interpretations that are not correct. Whenever men are not in word and deed seeking to be in harmony with God, then, however learned they may be, they are liable to err in their understanding of Scripture, and it is not safe to trust to their explanations. Those who look to the Scriptures to find discrepancies, have not spiritual insight. With distorted vision they will see many causes for doubt and unbelief in things that are really plain and simple. SC 110.1

Disguise it as they may, the real cause of doubt and skepticism, in most cases, is the love of sin. The teachings and restrictions of God's word are not welcome to the proud, sin-loving heart, and those who are unwilling to obey its requirements are ready to

to doubt its authority. In order to arrive at truth, we must have a sincere desire to know the truth and a willingness of heart to obey it. And all who come in this spirit to the study of the Bible will find abundant evidence that it is God's word, and they may gain an understanding of its truths that will make them wise unto salvation. SC 111.1

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2. History is repeating. With the open Bible before them, and professing to reverence its teachings, many of the religious leaders of our time are destroying faith in it as the word of God. They busy themselves with dissecting the word, and set their own opinions above its plainest statements. In their hands God's word loses its regenerating power. This is why infidelity runs riot, and iniquity is rife. DA 258.1

When Satan has undermined faith in the Bible, he directs men to other sources for light and power. Thus he insinuates himself. Those who turn from the plain teaching of Scripture and the convicting power of God's Holy Spirit are inviting the control of demons. Criticism and speculation concerning the Scriptures have opened the way for spiritism and theosophy—those modernized forms of ancient heathenism—to gain a foothold even in the professed churches of our Lord Jesus Christ. DA 258.2

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3. There is cause for alarm in the condition of the religious world today. God's mercy has been trifled with. The multitudes make void the law of Jehovah, "teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." Matthew 15:9. Infidelity prevails in many of the churches in our land; not infidelity in its broadest sense—an open denial of the Bible—but an infidelity that is robed in the garb of Christianity, while it is undermining faith in the Bible as a revelation from God. Fervent devotion and vital piety have given place to hollow formalism. As the result, apostasy and sensualism prevail. Christ declared, "As it was in the days of Lot, ... even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed." Luke 17:28, 30. The daily record of passing events testifies to the fulfillment of His words. The world is fast becoming ripe for destruction. Soon the judgments of God are to be poured out, and sin and sinners are to be consumed. PP 166.1

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4. The warnings of the word of God regarding the perils surrounding the Christian church belong to us today. As in the days of the apostles men tried by tradition and philosophy to destroy faith in the Scriptures, so today, by the pleasing sentiments of higher criticism, evolution, spiritualism, theosophy, and pantheism, the enemy of righteousness is seeking to lead souls into forbidden paths. To many the Bible is as a lamp without oil, because they have turned their minds into channels of speculative belief that bring misunderstanding and confusion. The work of higher criticism, in dissecting, conjecturing, reconstructing, is destroying faith in the Bible as a divine revelation. It is robbing God's word of power to control, uplift, and inspire human lives. By spiritualism, multitudes are taught to believe that desire is the highest law, that license is liberty, and that man is accountable only to himself. AA 474.1

The follower of Christ will meet with the "enticing words" against which the apostle warned the Colossian believers. He will meet with spiritualistic interpretations of the

Scriptures, but he is not to accept them. His voice is to be heard in clear affirmation of the eternal truths of the Scriptures. Keeping his eyes fixed on Christ, he is to move steadily forward in the path marked out, discarding all ideas that are not in harmony with His teaching. The truth of God is to be the subject for his contemplation and meditation. He is to regard the Bible as the voice of God speaking directly to him. Thus he will find the wisdom which is divine. AA 474.2

Lorem ipsum

# 5 PURPOSE OF THE BIBLE

## LESSON 5



### ADDITIONAL READING

Education, chapter 13 - "Mental and Spiritual Culture".

[https://egwwritings.org/read?panels=p29.1646\(29.588\)&index=0#highlight=1702.593|0](https://egwwritings.org/read?panels=p29.1646(29.588)&index=0#highlight=1702.593|0)

The Great Controversy, chapter 37 - "The Scriptures a Safeguard".

[https://egwwritings.org/read?panels=p132.2681\(132.2680\)&index=0#highlight=1710.2712|0](https://egwwritings.org/read?panels=p132.2681(132.2680)&index=0#highlight=1710.2712|0)

### Hymns:

- 593: "In Times Like These"
- "I am a Stranger Here"

### MEMORY

**2 Timothy 3:15-17**

#### VERSE:

15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.  
16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:  
17 That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.



### LESSON



1. Upon whom did Christ pronounce a blessing? Luke 11:28

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2. For what purpose were the psalms written? 1 Chronicles 16:7-9

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3. What is the message of the Bible? 2 Corinthians 5:20-21

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4. What book of the Bible has a special blessing for those who read it? Why? Revelation 1:3

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5. How does the Bible help us? What does it make us wise for? What is it useful for? What is the purpose of the Holy Scriptures? 2 Timothy 3:15, 16, 17; Psalm 119:105

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6. What does the word of God do to those who trust in it? Proverbs 30:5; Matthew 4:4, 7, 10.

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7. For what purpose were the Scriptures given? Romans 15:4

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8. For what purpose was it given, and is it efficient for that purpose? Hebrews 4:12. What is the function of the Spirit and what does it use for this purpose? John 16:8; Ephesians 6:17

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9. Where should the word of God be? How should it be found there? Colossians 3:16

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10. How is the word of God called? What should we do with it? Philippians 2:16

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11. How does God cause us to be born again? James 1:18

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12. Having received and treasured the word of God, what should be done with it?  
2 Timothy 4:2; 2 Thessalonians 3:1

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13. What work does the word of God do in man? 1 Peter 1:22-25; 2:2, 3;  
Psalm 119:9, 133; 1 Timothy 4:5; Ephesians 5:26

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14. What does His word do for us? Psalm 119:49-50

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15. What happens to the one who truly keeps His word? 1 John 2:5

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1. God has given us His word that we may become acquainted with its teachings and know for ourselves what He requires of us. When the lawyer came to Jesus with the inquiry, "What shall I do to inherit eternal life?" the Saviour referred him to the Scriptures, saying: "What is written in the law? how readest thou?" Ignorance will not excuse young or old, nor release them from the punishment due for the transgression of God's law; because there is in their hands a faithful presentation of that law and of its principles and claims. It is not enough to have good intentions; it is not enough to do what a man thinks is right or what the minister tells him is right. His soul's salvation is at stake, and he should search the Scriptures for himself. However strong may be his convictions, however confident he may be that the minister knows what is truth, this is not his foundation. He has a chart pointing out every waymark on the heavenward journey, and he ought not to guess at anything. GC 598.1

It is the first and highest duty of every rational being to learn from the Scriptures what is truth, and then to walk in the light and encourage others to follow his example. We should day by day study the Bible diligently, weighing every thought and comparing scripture with scripture. With divine help we are to form our opinions for ourselves as we are to answer for ourselves before God. GC 598.2

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2. No man, woman, or youth can attain to Christian perfection and neglect the study of the word of God. By carefully and closely searching His word we shall obey the injunction of Christ, "Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of Me." This search enables the student to observe closely the divine Model, for they testify of Christ. The Pattern must be inspected often and closely in order to imitate it. As one becomes acquainted with the history of the Redeemer, he discovers in himself defects of character; his unlikeness to Christ is so great that he sees he cannot be a follower without a very great change in his life. Still he studies, with a desire to be like his great Exemplar; he catches the looks, the spirit, of his beloved Master; by beholding he becomes changed. "Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith." ... CSW 17.1

The word of God, spoken to the heart, has an animating power, and those who will frame any excuse for neglecting to become acquainted with it will neglect the claims of God in many respects. The character will be deformed, the words and acts a reproach to the truth. The apostle tells us, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." One of the prophets of God exclaims, "While I was musing the fire burned." If Christians would earnestly search the Scriptures, more hearts would burn with the vivid truths therein revealed. Their hopes would brighten with the precious promises strown like pearls all through the Sacred Writings. In contemplating the history of the patriarchs, the prophets, the men who loved and feared God and walked with Him, hearts will glow with the spirit which animated these worthies. As the mind



dwells upon the virtue and piety of holy men of old, the spirit which inspired them will kindle a flame of love and holy fervor in the hearts of those who would be like them in character. CSW 17.2

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3. Notwithstanding the Bible is full of warnings against false teachers, many are ready thus to commit the keeping of their souls to the clergy. There are today thousands of professors of religion who can give no other reason for points of faith which they hold than that they were so instructed by their religious leaders. They pass by the Saviour's teachings almost unnoticed, and place implicit confidence in the words of the ministers. But are ministers infallible? How can we trust our souls to their guidance unless we know from God's word that they are light bearers? A lack of moral courage to step aside from the beaten track of the world leads many to follow in the steps of learned men; and by their reluctance to investigate for themselves, they are becoming hopelessly fastened in the chains of error. They see that the truth for this time is plainly brought to view in the Bible; and they feel the power of the Holy Spirit attending its proclamation; yet they allow the opposition of the clergy to turn them from the light. Though reason and conscience are convinced, these deluded souls dare not think differently from the minister; and their individual judgment, their eternal interests, are sacrificed to the unbelief, the pride and prejudice, of another. GC 596.4

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4. There should be a living, growing interest in storing the mind with Bible truth. The precious knowledge thus gained will build a barrier about the soul. Although assailed with temptation, there will be a firm trust in Jesus, through the knowledge of Him who hath called them to glory and to virtue.—Testimonies on Sabbath-School Work, 12. CSW 36.1

Point after point of truth should be investigated; for there is no limitation to the truth of God, and in its study a most lively interest should be felt by both teachers and pupils, that they may know what God hath said. For years the voice of God has been saying to us, "Agitate, agitate, agitate." Study every point of truth, that you may know for yourselves what is truth in distinction from error. Let students search for themselves, that they may know the deep things of God. Let this work be done in the Spirit of Christ. Put no restriction upon the students. CSW 36.2

In searching the Scriptures there is need of great humility of mind and contrition of heart, of seeking earnestly unto God. Those who come in a lowly spirit, seeking for truth, will be aided in their search by the angels of God.—Testimonies on Sabbath-School Work, 55, 56. CSW 37.1

# 6 JESUS AND THE SCRIPTURES

## LESSON 6

### ADDITIONAL READING

**The Desire of Ages, ch. 7 - "As a Child" and ch. 12 - "The Temptation".**

- [https://egwwritings.org/read?panels=p130.237\(130.235\)&index=0#highlight=174.234|0](https://egwwritings.org/read?panels=p130.237(130.235)&index=0#highlight=174.234|0)

- [https://egwwritings.org/read?panels=p130.460\(130.458\)&index=0#highlight=174.452|0](https://egwwritings.org/read?panels=p130.460(130.458)&index=0#highlight=174.452|0)

#### **Suggested videos:**

Fulfilled Prophecies of Messiah - Adrian Ebens  
<https://youtu.be/watch?v=Bl80YvZa37A>

#### **Hymns:**

- "The Theme of the Bible is Jesus"
- 272: "Give me the Bible"

#### **MEMORY**

**John 6: 63, 68**

#### VERSE:

63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life. ... 68 Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.

### LESSON

1. What words of Christ are recorded here? When does Christ utter these words, before or after his incarnation? What does "opened my ears" mean? In Christ, where was the law of God? How did Christ consider the will of God? Psalm 40:6-8 (See Hebrews 10:5-7); Isaiah 50:4-5.

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2. What did Christ do by having his ears open to the voice of his Father and delighting in doing His will? Psalm 40:9-10.

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3. How did Jesus consider the will of his Father? John 4:34; 5:30; 6:38; Matthew 26:39, 42, 44.

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4. Did Jesus do anything on his own? John 5:19; 8:28, 29.

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5. What did Jesus live on? Matthew 4:4; John 12:50

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6. What words did Jesus speak? John 14:10; 8:38; 7:16; 12:49-50

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7. How did Jesus show his approval of the Old Testament? Mark 14:49;  
Luke 24:27, 44; John 5:39

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8. What evidence did Jesus use to establish his identity and mission?  
Luke 24:27

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9. How did Jesus resist the devil's temptations? What did He establish as rule of  
conduct and source of authority? Matthew 4:3-10

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10. What did Jesus say about the book of Daniel? Matthew 24:15

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11. How did Jesus express his belief in the flood story? Luke 17:26-27

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12. What was seen and said regarding Jesus' words? Matthew 7:29; Luke 4:32; John 7:46

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13. Describe the effect of Christ's words. Matthew 8:16; Matthew 21:18-20; Mark 4:36-41; Luke 7:2-10; John 11:43-44

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14. What blessing did Jesus pronounce? Luke 11:28

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15. What are the words of Christ for the one who receives them? John 6:63, 68

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16. Who did Moses and the prophets write about? John 1:45

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17. Of whom do the Scriptures bear witness? John 5:39

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which is "for the healing of the nations." Revelation 22:2. Received, assimilated, they are to be the strength of the character, the inspiration and sustenance of the life. Nothing else can have such healing power. Nothing besides can impart the courage and faith which give vital energy to the whole being. MH 122.3

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4. In all the gracious deeds that Jesus did, He sought to impress upon men the parental, benevolent attributes of God. In all His lessons He was seeking to teach men the wonderful truth that "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Jesus would have us understand the love of the Father, and He seeks to draw us to Him by presenting His parental grace. He would have the whole field of our vision filled with the perfection of God's character. In His prayer for His disciples He says, "I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world." SD 139.2

Jesus came into the world to illustrate the character of God in His own life, and He swept back the misrepresentations that Satan had originated, and revealed the glory of God. It was only by living among men that He could reveal the mercy, compassion, and love of His heavenly Father; for it was only by actions of benevolence that He could set forth the grace of God. The unbelief of men was deep seated, and yet they could not resist the testimony of His God-like example, and His deeds of love and truth.<sup>39</sup> The Youth's Instructor, December 15, 1892. SD 139.3

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5. Christ is the center of all true doctrine. All true religion is found in His word and in nature. He is the One in whom our hopes of eternal life are centered; and the teacher who learns from Him finds a safe anchorage. CT 453.3

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What a God is our God! He rules over His kingdom with diligence and care, and He has built a hedge—the Ten Commandments—about His subjects to preserve them from the results of transgression. In requiring obedience to the laws of His kingdom, God gives His people health and happiness, peace and joy. He teaches them that the perfection of character He requires can be attained only by becoming familiar with His word. CT 454.1



4. What does Paul warn us about the history of Israel? What happened to them, and why? Hebrews 3:7-4:2

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5. What is faith? Hebrews 11:1. According to Jesus, what specifically does faith consist of, based on the story of the centurion? Matthew 8:5-10.

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6. For what action is faith? What is the sequence of faith? Romans 10:17

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7. Where did faith originate? From whom do we receive faith? Hebrews 12:2; Acts 26:15, 18; Revelation 14:12.

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8. How do we receive faith? Do we have to give something to receive it? Galatians 5:22; Ephesians 2:8

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9. Through what do we receive God's righteousness? Romans 3:22

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10. Describe, based on what has been seen up to this point, the relationship between the word of God and faith.

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11. What is the promise of the new covenant, God's covenant? What does God do for man and with man? Hebrews 8:10-12; Ezekiel 36:23-30; Jeremiah 31:33

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12. Describe the work of God in the Gentiles. Romans 2:14-15

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13. What is the work that God wanted to do in Moses? Exodus 4:12, 15

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14. What is the work that God wants to do in his disciples? Luke 21:13-15; Mark 13:11

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15. What is God's covenant that He longs to do in our lives? Isaiah 59:21; Ezekiel 36:27; Isaiah 30:21

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throne; Daniel among the lions, his enemies in the high places of the kingdom; Jesus on the cross, and the Jewish priests and rulers forcing even the Roman governor to work their will; Paul in chains led to a criminal's death, Nero the despot of a world empire. Ed 254.2

Such examples are not found in the Bible only. They abound in every record of human progress. The Vaudois and the Huguenots, Wycliffe and Huss, Jerome and Luther, Tyndale and Knox, Zinzendorf and Wesley, with multitudes of others, have witnessed to the power of God's word against human power and policy in support of evil. These are the world's true nobility. This is its royal line. In this line the youth of today are called to take their places. Ed 254.3

Faith is needed in the smaller no less than in the greater affairs of life. In all our daily interests and occupations the sustaining strength of God becomes real to us through an abiding trust. Ed 255.1

Viewed from its human side, life is to all an untried path. It is a path in which, as regards our deeper experiences, we each walk alone. Into our inner life no other human being can fully enter. As the little child sets forth on that journey in which, sooner or later, he must choose his own course, himself deciding life's issues for eternity, how earnest should be the effort to direct his trust to the sure Guide and Helper! Ed 255.2

As a shield from temptation and an inspiration to purity and truth, no other influence can equal the sense of God's presence. "All things are naked and opened unto the eyes of Him with whom we have to do." He is "of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity." Hebrews 4:13; Habakkuk 1:13. This thought was Joseph's shield amidst the corruptions of Egypt. To the allurements of temptation his answer was steadfast: "How ... can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?" Genesis 39:9. Such a shield, faith, if cherished, will bring to every soul. Ed 255.3

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3. The desire for an easy religion that requires no striving, no self-denial, no divorce from the follies of the world, has made the doctrine of faith, and faith only, a popular doctrine; but what saith the word of God? Says the apostle James: "What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? ... Wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? ... Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only." James 2:14-24. GC 472.1

The testimony of the word of God is against this ensnaring doctrine of faith without works. It is not faith that claims the favor of Heaven without complying with the conditions upon which mercy is to be granted, it is presumption; for genuine faith has its foundation in the promises and provisions of the Scriptures. GC 472.2

4. But faith is in no sense allied to presumption. Only he who has true faith is secure against presumption. For presumption is Satan's counterfeit of faith. Faith claims God's promises, and brings forth fruit in obedience. Presumption also claims the promises, but uses them as Satan did, to excuse transgression. Faith would have led our first parents to trust the love of God, and to obey His commands. Presumption led them to transgress His law, believing that His great love would save them from the consequence of their sin. It is not faith that claims the favor of Heaven without complying with the conditions on which mercy is to be granted. Genuine faith has its foundation in the promises and provisions of the Scriptures. DA 126.1



3. Why do people find it difficult to understand the Bible? Why does the natural man not receive the things of the Spirit? 1 Corinthians 2:13, 14; Romans 8:7

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4. Can the unconverted soul understand the word of God correctly? John 3:1-10

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5. Are there sections in the Bible that are more difficult to understand than others? 2 Peter 3:15, 16

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6. Who knows the things of God? 1 Corinthians 2:11

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7. As we read the Bible, what should we do? 1 Timothy 4:15; Psalm 119:18

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8. What example of diligent study is given to us? What does it consist of? Acts 17:10-12

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9. What should our prayer be? Who helps us? Ephesians 1:17; 2 Timothy 2:7; James 1:5, 6

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10. How does God help us? How is that help, how broad is it? John 14:16, 17, 26; 16:13

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11. What should be the purpose of the study? 2 Timothy 2:15

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12. As we study, what should we do? 1 Timothy 4:15-16

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13. Under what conditions is understanding in divine things promised? Proverbs 2:3-5; James 1:5-7

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14. After the resurrection, what blessing did Christ give His disciples? Luke 24:45

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15. What is promised to one who longs to do God's will? John 7:17

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16. Is there any relationship between obedience and understanding God's word?  
Psalm 119:33-40; John 7:17; 17:17

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17. Where are the treasures of knowledge and wisdom hidden? How much does God promise to give us to understand? To the members of which church is this word given? Colossians 2:1-3

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1. The mind must be exercised on the solemn truths of God's word, or it will grow weak. We have the truth brought out in publications, but it is not enough to rely upon other men's thoughts. We must examine for ourselves, and learn the reasons of our faith by comparing scripture with scripture. Take the Bible, and on your knees plead with God to enlighten your mind. If we would study the Bible diligently and prayerfully every day, we should every day see some beautiful truth in a new, clear, and forcible light.—The Review and Herald, March 4, 1884. CSW 22.2

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2. ... While there is need of thorough investigation of the word of God, that precious truth may be discovered and brought to light, we should be guarded, that the spirit of controversy does not control in our discussions of the Sabbath school lesson. In bringing out points upon which there may be a difference of opinion, the grace of Christ should be manifested by those who are seeking for an understanding of the word of God. There should be liberty given for a frank investigation of truth, that each may know for himself what is the truth. Among the pupils of the Sabbath school there should be a spirit of investigation, that those who are old enough to discern evidence may be encouraged to search for fresh rays of light, and to appreciate all that God may send to His people. The light which God will send to His people will never appear unless there is a diligent searching of the word of truth. CSW 27.1

...  
Precious light is to shine forth from the word of God, and let no one presume to dictate what shall or what shall not be brought before the people in the messages of enlightenment that He shall send, and so quench the Spirit of God. Whatever may be his position of authority, no one has a right to shut away the light from the people. When a message comes in the name of the Lord to His people, no one may excuse himself from an investigation of its claims. No one can afford to stand back in an attitude of indifference and self-confidence, and say: "I know what is truth. I am satisfied with my position. I have set my stakes, and I will not be moved away from my position, whatever may come. I will not listen to the message of this messenger; for I know that it cannot be truth." It is from pursuing this very course that the popular churches were left in partial darkness, and that is why the messages of heaven have not reached them. CSW 28.1

God calls upon those who hold responsible positions in Sabbath school work to put away all egotism, all self-confidence, and pride of opinion; if a message comes that you do not understand, take pains that you may hear the reasons the messenger may give, comparing scripture with scripture, that you may know whether or not it is sustained by the word of God. If you believe that the positions taken have not the word of God for their foundation, if the position you hold on the subject cannot be controverted, then produce your strong reasons; for your position will not be shaken by coming in contact with error. There is no virtue or manliness in keeping up a continual warfare in the dark, closing your eyes lest you may see, closing your ears lest you may hear, hardening your heart in ignorance and unbelief lest you may have to humble yourselves and acknowledge that you have received light on some points of truth. CSW 28.2

To hold yourselves aloof from an investigation of truth is not the way to carry out the Saviour's injunction to "search the Scriptures." Is it digging for hidden treasures to call the results of some one's labor a mass of rubbish, and make no critical examination to see whether or not there are precious jewels of truth in the collection of thought which you condemn? Will those who have almost everything to learn keep themselves away from every meeting where there is an opportunity to investigate the messages that come to the people, simply because they imagine the views held by the teachers of the truth may be out of harmony with what they have conceived as truth? Thus it was that the Jews did in the days of Christ, and we are warned not to do as they did, and be led to choose darkness rather than light, because there was in them an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God. No one of those who imagine that they know it all is too old or too intelligent to learn from the humblest of the messengers of the living God.—Testimonies on Sabbath-School Work, 62-66. CSW 29.1

... "I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one." God calls upon the young men and young women to make the most of their entrusted ability. He would have you cultivate habits of industry, habits of study, that you may improve the talents He has given you. God will accept your service, and the improvement of your talents, but He cannot look with approval upon half-hearted, halfway work. Every branch of God's work calls for the exercise of the highest ability; it demands that you shall bring into requisition every available help, that you shall direct your noblest impulses to the propagation of the truth. The exalted, sacred character of the work requires the enlistment of the highest intellectual and spiritual powers, that it may be properly represented before those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death. CSW 30.2

If you are called to be a teacher in any branch of the work of God, you are called also to be a learner in the school of Christ. If you take upon you the sacred responsibility of teaching others, you take upon you the duty of going to the bottom of every subject you seek to teach. ... CSW 31.1

... To condemn that which you have not heard and do not understand will not exalt your wisdom in the eyes of those who are candid in their investigations of truth. And to speak with contempt of those whom God has sent with a message of truth, is folly and madness. If our youth are seeking to educate themselves to be workers in His cause, they should learn the way of the Lord, and live by every word that proceedeth out of His mouth. They are not to make up their minds that the whole truth has been unfolded, and that the Infinite One has no more light for His people. If they entrench themselves in the belief that the whole truth has been revealed, they will be in danger of discarding precious jewels of truth that shall be discovered as men turn their attention to the searching of the rich mine of God's word. CSW 32.1

If they [those would teach or take on responsibility] do not form the habit of investigating themes of truth for themselves, they will become superficial in their life and acquirements. The opinions of your associates may be of value to you, but you should not rely upon them and have no definite ideas of your own. You should

examine the truths you have been led to believe, until you know that they are without a flaw. You lose much when you do not bring every point of faith you hold to the law and to the testimony, for you do not see or appreciate the truth as it is. Oh, that all our youth might appreciate the privilege that God has given! It is His will that you should go to the source of all light, and receive the enlightenment of His Spirit (for this will be given to every humble seeker for truth), and then you will know that the Spirit and the Word agree, and know that you know what is truth. What assurance this knowledge gives! You can then speak with power, proclaiming what you have learned as truth, knowing that you have not followed cunningly devised fables.—Testimonies on Sabbath-School Work, 58-61. CSW 33.1

.... Many gems are yet scattered that are to be gathered together to become the property of the remnant people of God. But light is not given simply to be a strength to the church, but to be shed upon those who are in darkness. The people of God are to show forth the praises of Him who hath called them out of darkness into His marvelous light. Christ has said of His people, "Ye are the light of the world," and it is the mission of the light to shine out and illuminate the darkness. CSW 34.1

Oh, may teachers and pupils be what the Lord designed that they should be when He gave His life that they might be the sons and daughters of God, and win the crown of immortal glory!—Testimonies on Sabbath-School Work, 53, 54. CSW 34.2

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3. Let students put to the stretch their mental faculties, that they may comprehend the forty-fifth chapter of Isaiah. Such chapters as this should be brought into our schools as a valuable study. They are better than romance and fables. Why have our schools been so dependent upon books which tell so little of the city we claim to be seeking, whose builder and maker is God? Our lesson books should contain the loftiest themes of thought. Heaven is our home. Our citizenship is above, and our lives must not be devoted to a world that is soon to be destroyed.... CT 455.3

Take the Bible as a study book, and see if you are not filled with the love of God. Your heart may be barren, your intellect feeble; but if you will prayerfully study the word of God, light will flash into your mind. God works with every diligent student. Teachers who will learn from the Great Teacher will realize the help of God as did Daniel and his fellows, of whom the record states, "As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams." Daniel 1:17.... CT 455.4

I could refer to chapter after chapter of the Old Testament Scriptures that contain great encouragement. These Scriptures are a treasure house of precious pearls, and all need them. How much time is spent by intelligent human beings in horse racing, cricket matches, and ball playing! But will indulgence in these sports give men a desire to know truth and righteousness? Will it keep God in their thoughts? Will it lead them to inquire, How is it with my soul? CT 456.1

4. Christ is the truth. His words are truth, and they have a deeper significance than appears on the surface. All the sayings of Christ have a value beyond their unpretending appearance. Minds that are quickened by the Holy Spirit will discern the value of these sayings. They will discern the precious gems of truth, though these may be buried treasures. COL 110.1

...

The priests and Pharisees thought they were doing great things as teachers by putting their own interpretation upon the word of God, but Christ said of them, "Ye know not the scriptures, neither the power of God." Mark 12:24. He charged them with the guilt of "teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." Mark 7:7. Though they were the teachers of the oracles of God, though they were supposed to understand His word, they were not doers of the word. Satan had blinded their eyes that they should not see its true import. COL 110.3

This is the work of many in our day. Many churches are guilty of this sin. There is danger, great danger, that the supposed wise men of today will repeat the experience of the Jewish teachers. They falsely interpret the divine oracles, and souls are brought into perplexity and shrouded in darkness because of their misconception of divine truth. COL 110.4

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Our salvation depends on a knowledge of the truth contained in the Scriptures. It is God's will that we should possess this. Search, O search the precious Bible with hungry hearts. Explore God's word as the miner explores the earth to find veins of gold. Never give up the search until you have ascertained your relation to God and His will in regard to you. Christ declared, "Whatsoever ye shall ask in My name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask anything in My name, I will do it." John 14:13, 14. COL 111.3

Men of piety and talent catch views of eternal realities, but often they fail of understanding, because the things that are seen eclipse the glory of the unseen. He who would seek successfully for the hidden treasure must rise to higher pursuits than the things of this world. His affections and all his capabilities must be consecrated to the search. COL 112.1

Disobedience has closed the door to a vast amount of knowledge that might have been gained from the Scriptures. Understanding means obedience to God's commandments. The Scriptures are not to be adapted to meet the prejudice and jealousy of men. They can be understood only by those who are humbly seeking for a knowledge of the truth that they may obey it. COL 112.2

...

"Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." John 3:3. He may conjecture and imagine, but without the eye of faith he cannot see the treasure. Christ gave His life to secure for us this inestimable treasure; but without regeneration through faith in His blood, there is no remission of sins, no treasure for any perishing soul. COL 112.5

We need the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit in order to discern the truths in God's word. The lovely things of the natural world are not seen until the sun, dispelling the

darkness, floods them with its light. So the treasures in the word of God are not appreciated until they are revealed by the bright beams of the Sun of Righteousness. COL 113.1

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5. "Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine." Thyself needs the first attention. First give yourself to the Lord for sanctification to his service. A godly example will tell more for the truth than the greatest eloquence unaccompanied by a well-ordered life. Trim the lamp of the soul, and replenish it with the oil of the Spirit. Seek from Christ that grace, that clearness of comprehension, which will enable you to do successful work. Learn from him what it means to labor for those for whom he gave his life. The most talented worker can do little unless Christ is formed within, the hope and strength of the life. RH August 19, 1902, par. 4



4. What are God's words compared to? How much of God's words does man need? Matthew 4:4

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5. Is there anything from the law that is to pass away, or cease to be? Matthew 5:17, 18

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**Principle of Interpretation 2: Cannot add, nor remove.**

6. ¿What cannot be done to the word of God? Deuteronomy 4:2; Revelation 22:18-19; Deuteronomy 12:32; Proverbs 30:6

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**Principle of Interpretation 3: Cannot contradict.**

7. Can the Scriptures be broken or something contrary to the Scriptures be affirmed? John 10:34-36

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8. In what condition are those who do not speak according to the law and testimony? Why? Isaiah 8:20-22; Psalm 119:105

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9. How did Jesus respond to Satan's temptations in the desert? What did He refer to in the three temptations? What lessons can we draw from them? Matthew 4:3-11

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**Principle of Interpretation 4: Scripture explains Scripture with the aid of the Holy Spirit.**

10. Look up in the dictionary the definitions of prophet and prophecy. What is the relationship between them?

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11. What does prophecy compare to? 2 Peter 1:19

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12. What is necessary to understand first of all? 2 Peter 1:20

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13. Why do we need to understand that? 2 Peter 1:21

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14. To whom then does the interpretation of the prophecy belong?  
2 Peter 1:20-21

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15. How should the Bible be studied? Isaiah 28:9-10, 13

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16. For what purpose was the Holy Spirit sent? John 14:26; 1 John 2:20, 27

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5. The knowledge of God as revealed in Christ is the knowledge that all who are saved must have. This is the knowledge that works transformation of character. Received into the life, it will re-create the soul in the image of Christ. This is the knowledge that God invites His children to receive, beside which all else is vanity and nothingness. AA 475.1

In every generation and in every land the true foundation for character building has been the same—the principles contained in the word of God. The only safe and sure rule is to do what God says. "The statutes of the Lord are right," and "he that doeth these things shall never be moved." Psalms 19:8; 15:5. It was with the word of God that the apostles met the false theories of their day, saying, "Other foundation can no man lay than that is laid." 1 Corinthians 3:11. AA 475.2



4. What happens to that which was sown on stony ground? What happens to the word? Matthew 13:20, 21

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5. What happens to the one that fell among thorns? What happens to the word? Matthew 13:22

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6. What happens to the one who is sown in good soil? What two things experiences in relation to the word? Matthew 13:23

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7. How should the word be received? Mark 10:15

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**Practicing the principles:**

8. Read Proverbs 27:17. What is your understanding of the text? What is its most literal and direct meaning?

Regarding this verse, further define the word iron using the following verses: Numbers 35:16; Ecclesiastes 10:10; Hebrews 4:12. In light of these verses, what additional message does the text of Proverbs 27:17 give us? To what principle of interpretation studied last week does this text refer?

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9. Carefully consider the following verses, their context, and answer the questions:

**John 5:39** Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. **40** And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.

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

In this verse, Jesus speaks to the Pharisees and chief priests. What does Jesus say they were doing? Why were they doing that? What do the Scriptures do about Jesus? How does one obtain eternal life? Can one obtain eternal life according to how the Pharisees saw it?

Read John 5:24 and John 6:63, 68.

Who has eternal life? What are the words of Jesus? Who has words of eternal life? Resolve the apparent contradiction in these quoted texts using other Scripture verses. What is the lesson you get?

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difference of opinion arises which will set men to searching the Bible for themselves, to make sure that they have the truth, there will be many now, as in ancient times, who will hold to tradition, and worship they know not what. CW 39.1

I have been shown that many who profess to have a knowledge of present truth, know not what they believe. They do not understand the evidences of their faith. They have no just appreciation of the work for the present time. When the time of trial shall come, there are men now preaching to others, who will find, upon examining the positions they hold, that there are many things for which they can give no satisfactory reason. Until thus tested, they knew not their great ignorance. CW 39.2

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6. There are errors and inconsistencies which many denounce as the teaching of the Bible that are really false interpretations of Scripture, adopted during the ages of papal darkness. Multitudes have been led to cherish an erroneous conception of God, as the Jews, misled by the errors and traditions of their time, had a false conception of Christ. "Had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory." It is ours to reveal to the world the true character of God. Instead of criticizing the Bible, let us seek, by precept and example, to present to the world its sacred, life-giving truths, that we may "show forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." 5T 710.1

# 11 SYMBOLS OF THE WORD OF GOD

## LESSON 11

 **ADDITIONAL READING**


**The Desire of Ages, chapter 51.**  
[https://egwwritings.org/read?panels=p130.2255\(130.2253\)&index=0#highlight=174.2234|0](https://egwwritings.org/read?panels=p130.2255(130.2253)&index=0#highlight=174.2234|0)

**The Desire of Ages, chapter 41.**  
[https://egwwritings.org/read?panels=p130.1836\(130.1834\)&index=0#highlight=174.1816|0](https://egwwritings.org/read?panels=p130.1836(130.1834)&index=0#highlight=174.1816|0)

**Christ's Object Lessons, chapter 2.**  
[https://egwwritings.org/read?panels=p15.79\(15.78\)&index=0#highlight=210.68|0](https://egwwritings.org/read?panels=p15.79(15.78)&index=0#highlight=210.68|0)

**Hymns:**

- 305: "Give me Jesus"
- 532: "Day by Day"
- 326: "Open my Eyes That I May See"

 **LESSON** ///

**Light** ///

1. How did Jesus speak to the crowd? Mark 4:33-34

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2. What is the word of God in this world of darkness, sin and death?  
 Psalm 119:105; 2 Peter 1:19

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3. Not speaking according to the Scriptures, or contradicting them, what is it compared to? Isaiah 8:20

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4. What is said about light? John 1:4, 9

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5. What can happen to man in the presence of light? What is the danger of which we are warned? John 3:19-21

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**Food**

6. What lesson did the giving of the manna seek to teach the Israelites? Can one live without the word of God? How much of all God's word is necessary? Deuteronomy 8:3; Matthew 4:4

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7. Who did Jesus declare He is? What did He suggest men do? John 6:35, 41, 52, 53, 57, 58. Explain with other verses.

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8. What lessons is God seeking to teach us with these stories and words? Develop.

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9. What comparison did the apostle Paul use to indicate that certain sections of the Bible are more difficult to understand than others? Is it possible to partake of meat when the usual diet is milk? What are the characteristics of one who partakes of milk? What are the characteristics of one who partakes of meat? Hebrews 5:12-14

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10. Define milk or first rudiments. Hebrews 6:1-2

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11. Define meat. Hebrews 5:7-11

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12. What are God's words like? Psalm 119:103

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13. How should the word of God be received? Jeremiah 15:16

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**Seed**

14. Describe in your own words the parable of the sower. Matthew 13:1-9

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**Sword**

15. What is the word of God? Whose sword is it? Ephesians 6:17

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16. Describe how the word is like. Hebrews 4:12-13

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17. Why is the word described as a sword? Find verses that answer this question.

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 **NOTES** //////////////////////////////////////

1. By one who listened to these words, they were long afterward re-echoed in that sublime passage, "In Him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in the darkness; and the darkness apprehended it not." "That was the true light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world." John 1:4, 5, R. V., 9. And long after Jesus had ascended to heaven, Peter also, writing under the illumination of the divine Spirit, recalled the symbol Christ had used: "We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the daystar arise in your hearts." 2 Peter 1:19. DA 464.1

In the manifestation of God to His people, light had ever been a symbol of His presence. At the creative word in the beginning, light had shone out of darkness. Light had been enshrouded in the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night, leading the vast armies of Israel. Light blazed with awful grandeur about the Lord on Mount Sinai. Light rested over the mercy seat in the tabernacle. Light filled the temple of Solomon at its dedication. Light shone on the hills of Bethlehem when the angels brought the message of redemption to the watching shepherds. DA 464.2

God is light; and in the words, "I am the light of the world," Christ declared His oneness with God, and His relation to the whole human family. It was He who at the beginning had caused "the light to shine out of darkness." 2 Corinthians 4:6. He is the light of sun and moon and star. He was the spiritual light that in symbol and type and prophecy had shone upon Israel. But not to the Jewish nation alone was the light given. As the sunbeams penetrate to the remotest corners of the earth, so does the light of the Sun of Righteousness shine upon every soul. DA 464.3

"That was the true light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world." The world has had its great teachers, men of giant intellect and wonderful research, men whose utterances have stimulated thought, and opened to view vast fields of knowledge; and these men have been honored as guides and benefactors of their race. But there is One who stands higher than they. "As many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God." "No man hath seen God at any time; the only-begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, He hath declared Him." John 1:12, 18. We can trace the line of the world's great teachers as far back as human records extend; but the Light was before them. As the moon and the stars of the solar system shine by the reflected light of the sun, so, as far as their teaching is true, do the world's great thinkers reflect the rays of the Sun of Righteousness. Every gem of thought, every flash of the intellect, is from the Light of the world. In these days we hear much about "higher education." The true "higher education" is that imparted by Him "in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." "In Him was life; and the life was the light of men." Colossians 2:3; John 1:4. "He that followeth Me," said Jesus, "shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." DA 464.4

2. The figure which Christ used was a familiar one to the Jews. Moses, by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, had said, "Man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord." And the prophet Jeremiah had written, "Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and Thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart." Deuteronomy 8:3; Jeremiah 15:16. The rabbis themselves had a saying, that the eating of bread, in its spiritual significance, was the study of the law and the practice of good works; and it was often said that at the Messiah's coming all Israel would be fed. The teaching of the prophets made plain the deep spiritual lesson in the miracle of the loaves. This lesson Christ was seeking to open to His hearers in the synagogue. Had they understood the Scriptures, they would have understood His words when He said, "I am the bread of life." Only the day before, the great multitude, when faint and weary, had been fed by the bread which He had given. As from that bread they had received physical strength and refreshment, so from Christ they might receive spiritual strength unto eternal life. "He that cometh to Me," He said, "shall never hunger; and he that believeth on Me shall never thirst." But He added, "Ye also have seen Me, and believe not." DA 386.2

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3. To eat the flesh and drink the blood of Christ is to receive Him as a personal Saviour, believing that He forgives our sins, and that we are complete in Him. It is by beholding His love, by dwelling upon it, by drinking it in, that we are to become partakers of His nature. What food is to the body, Christ must be to the soul. Food cannot benefit us unless we eat it, unless it becomes a part of our being. So Christ is of no value to us if we do not know Him as a personal Saviour. A theoretical knowledge will do us no good. We must feed upon Him, receive Him into the heart, so that His life becomes our life. His love, His grace, must be assimilated. DA 389.3

But even these figures fail to present the privilege of the believer's relation to Christ. Jesus said, "As the living Father hath sent Me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth Me, even he shall live by Me." As the Son of God lived by faith in the Father, so are we to live by faith in Christ. So fully was Jesus surrendered to the will of God that the Father alone appeared in His life. Although tempted in all points like as we are, He stood before the world untainted by the evil that surrounded Him. Thus we also are to overcome as Christ overcame. DA 389.4

Are you a follower of Christ? Then all that is written concerning the spiritual life is written for you, and may be attained through uniting yourself to Jesus. Is your zeal languishing? has your first love grown cold? Accept again of the proffered love of Christ. Eat of His flesh, drink of His blood, and you will become one with the Father and with the Son. DA 389.5

# 12 THE POWER OF THE WORD OF GOD

## LESSON 12

 **ADDITIONAL READING:**

**The Desire of Ages, chapter 26.**

[https://egwwritings.org/read?panels=p130.1156\(130.1155\)&index=0#highlight=130.1155|0](https://egwwritings.org/read?panels=p130.1156(130.1155)&index=0#highlight=130.1155|0)

**Christ's Object Lessons, chapter 7.**

[https://egwwritings.org/read?panels=p15.357\(15.356\)&index=0#highlight=210.327|0](https://egwwritings.org/read?panels=p15.357(15.356)&index=0#highlight=210.327|0)

**Suggested videos:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OogtNM0Z1IA>

**Hymns:**

- 88: "I Sing the Mighty Power of God"
- 509: "How Firm a Foundation"

<b>MEMORY</b>	<b>Psalm 119:11</b>
VERSE:	
Thy word have I hid in mine heart, That I might not sin against thee.	

 **LESSON** /

1. How were the heavens and the earth made? Psalm 33:6, 9; Hebrews 11:1-3

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2. Is the word of God a lifeless thing, is it powerful? Hebrews 4:12

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3. How does God give healing? Psalm 107:20; Matthew 8:8-13; Psalm 103:3; Proverbs 4:20-22

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4. How does God bring peace to the elements of nature? Matthew 8:23-27

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5. How are the earth and the universe sustained? Hebrews 1:3

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6. How are we cleansed from sin? Psalm 119:9; John 15:3

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7. After we have been cleansed, how do we remain without falling? Psalm 119:11; Matthew 4:4; 1 Peter 1:5

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8. If we receive and believe in the word of God, what will it do to the believer? John 17:17

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9. What gives power to the word of God? John 6:63. What is the connection between the spirit, the breath, and the word?

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10. In what does the power of God's word consist? Psalm 119:11; 17:4

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11. What does man need to live? Deuteronomy 8:3

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12. What is the word of God like? What it is compared to? Isaiah 55:10-11

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 **NOTES** //////////////////////////////////////

1. The creative energy that called the worlds into existence is in the word of God. This word imparts power; it begets life. Every command is a promise; accepted by the will, received into the soul, it brings with it the life of the Infinite One. It transforms the nature and re-creates the soul in the image of God. Ed 126.4

The life thus imparted is in like manner sustained. "By every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4) shall man live. Ed 126.5

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2. Righteousness has its root in godliness. No man can steadily maintain before his fellow men a pure, forceful life unless his life is hid with Christ in God. The greater the activity among men, the closer must be the communion of the heart with heaven. MH 136.1

The more urgent his duties and the greater his responsibilities, the greater the physician's need of divine power. Time must be redeemed from things temporal, for meditation upon things eternal. He must resist an encroaching world, which would so press upon him as to separate him from the Source of strength. Above all other men should he, by prayer and the study of the Scriptures, place himself under the protecting shield of God. He is to live in hourly contact and conscious communion with the principles of truth, righteousness, and mercy that reveal God's attributes within the soul. MH 136.2



3. Just to the degree in which the word of God is received and obeyed will it impress with its potency and touch with its life every spring of action, every phase of character. It will purify every thought, regulate every desire. Those who make God's word their trust will quit themselves like men and be strong. They will rise above all baser things into an atmosphere free from defilement. MH 136.3

When man is in fellowship with God, that unswerving purpose which preserved Joseph and Daniel amidst the corruption of heathen courts will make his a life of unsullied purity. His robes of character will be spotless. In his life the light of Christ will be undimmed. The bright and morning Star will appear shining steadfastly above him in changeless glory. MH 136.4

Such a life will be an element of strength in the community. It will be a barrier against evil, a safeguard to the tempted, a guiding light to those who, amidst difficulties and discouragements, are seeking the right way. MH 136.5

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4. History is repeating. With the open Bible before them, and professing to reverence its teachings, many of the religious leaders of our time are destroying faith in it as the word of God. They busy themselves with dissecting the word, and set their own opinions above its plainest statements. In their hands God's word loses its regenerating power. This is why infidelity runs riot, and iniquity is rife. DA 258.1

When Satan has undermined faith in the Bible, he directs men to other sources for light and power. Thus he insinuates himself. Those who turn from the plain teaching of Scripture and the convicting power of God's Holy Spirit are inviting the control of demons. Criticism and speculation concerning the Scriptures have opened the way for spiritism and theosophy—those modernized forms of ancient heathenism—to gain a foothold even in the professed churches of our Lord Jesus Christ. DA 258.2  
Side by side with the preaching of the gospel, agencies are at work which are but the medium of lying spirits. Many a man tampers with these merely from curiosity, but seeing evidence of the working of a more than human power, he is lured on and on, until he is controlled by a will stronger than his own. He cannot escape from its mysterious power. DA 258.3

The defenses of the soul are broken down. He has no barrier against sin. When once the restraints of God's word and His Spirit are rejected, no man knows to what depths of degradation he may sink. Secret sin or master passion may hold him a captive as helpless as was the demoniac of Capernaum. Yet his condition is not hopeless. DA 258.4 The means by which we can overcome the wicked one is that by which Christ overcame,—the power of the word. God does not control our minds without our consent; but if we desire to know and to do His will, His promises are ours: "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." "If any man willeth to do His will, he shall know of the teaching." John 8:32; 7:17, R. V. Through faith in these promises, every man may be delivered from the snares of error and the control of sin. DA 258.5

5. Every man is free to choose what power he will have to rule over him. None have fallen so low, none are so vile, but that they can find deliverance in Christ. The demoniac, in place of prayer, could utter only the words of Satan; yet the heart's unspoken appeal was heard. No cry from a soul in need, though it fail of utterance in words, will be unheeded. Those who will consent to enter into covenant relation with the God of heaven are not left to the power of Satan or to the infirmity of their own nature. They are invited by the Saviour, "Let him take hold of My strength, that he may make peace with Me; and he shall make peace with Me." Isaiah 27:5. The spirits of darkness will battle for the soul once under their dominion, but angels of God will contend for that soul with prevailing power. The Lord says, "Shall the prey be taken from the mighty, or the lawful captive delivered? ... Thus saith the Lord, Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken away, and the prey of the terrible shall be delivered: for I will contend with him that contendeth with thee, and I will save thy children." Isaiah 49:24, 25. DA 258.6

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6. Often the question arises, Why, then, are there so many, claiming to believe God's word, in whom there is not seen a reformation in words, in spirit, and in character? Why are there so many who cannot bear opposition to their purposes and plans, who manifest an unholy temper, and whose words are harsh, overbearing, and passionate? There is seen in their lives the same love of self, the same selfish indulgence, the same temper and hasty speech, that is seen in the life of the worldling. There is the same sensitive pride, the same yielding to natural inclination, the same perversity of character, as if the truth were wholly unknown to them. The reason is that they are not converted. They have not hidden the leaven of truth in the heart. It has not had opportunity to do its work. Their natural and cultivated tendencies to evil have not been submitted to its transforming power. Their lives reveal the absence of the grace of Christ, an unbelief in His power to transform the character. COL 99.1

"Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Romans 10:17. The Scriptures are the great agency in the transformation of character. Christ prayed, "Sanctify them through Thy truth; Thy word is truth." John 17:17. If studied and obeyed, the word of God works in the heart, subduing every unholy attribute. The Holy Spirit comes to convict of sin, and the faith that springs up in the heart works by love to Christ, conforming us in body, soul, and spirit to His own image. Then God can use us to do His will. The power given us works from within outwardly, leading us to communicate to others the truth that has been communicated to us. COL 100.1

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7. The Lord has often made manifest in His providence that nothing less than revealed truth, the word of God, can reclaim man from sin or keep him from transgression. That word which reveals the guilt of sin has a power upon the human heart to make man right and keep him so. The Lord has said that His word is to be studied and obeyed; it is to be brought into the practical life; that word is as inflexible as the character of God—the same yesterday, today, and forever. TM 80.2