

SABBATH SCHOOL LESSONS



STUDIES ON
DANIEL 11

Second Half 2023

ADVENT PILGRIMS FELLOWSHIP

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SECTION 1

**REVELATIONS
OF MICHAEL
OUR PRINCE**

Introduction

“**M**EN OF ALL CHARACTERS, righteous and unrighteous, will stand in their positions. With the characters they have formed, they will act their part in the fulfillment of history. In a crisis, just at the right moment, men will stand in the places they have prepared themselves to fill. Believers and unbelievers will fall into line as witnesses, to confirm truth which they do not themselves comprehend. All will cooperate in accomplishing the purposes of God [...]

“Heaven and earth will pass away, but not one jot or tittle of the word of God will fail. It will endure forever. All men, whatever their position, whatever their religion, loyal or disloyal to God, wicked or righteous, are fitting themselves to do their work in the closing scenes of the day of the Lord. They will trample down each other as they act out their natural attributes and fulfill their purposes; but they will carry out the purpose of God. The priests thought they were carrying out their own purposes, but unconsciously and unintentionally they were fulfilling the purpose of God. He "revealeth the deep and secret things; he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with Him."

“If the Bible student learns from the great Teacher who inspired Bible history, he will know the truth. The Word is light, and to those who search its pages diligently, it is illuminated by the bright beams of the Sun of Righteousness.” —*Manuscript Releases Vol. 12*, pp. 390, 391.

Discovery of the Day Star

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 day star arise in your hearts. 2 Peter 1:19

OBJECTIVES

- To identify the Day Star.
- To search for Him in prophecy.
- To locate Him in the vision of Daniel 11.

MORE THAN PROPHETIC FACTS

1. In all our studies of prophecy, what sacred relationship must we always associate them with? Rev. 19:10; 1:1; 2 Peter 1:21

“The sacrifice of Christ as an atonement for sin is the great truth around which all other truths cluster. In order to be rightly understood and appreciated, every truth in the Word of God, from Genesis to Revelation, must be studied in the light which streams from the cross of Calvary, and in connection with the wondrous, central truth of the Saviour's atonement. Those who study the Redeemer's wonderful sacrifice grow in grace and knowledge.

“I present before you the great, grand monument of mercy and regeneration, salvation and redemption--the Son of God uplifted on the cross of Calvary. This is to be the theme of every discourse. Christ

declares, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me"" —*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 5*, p. 1137.

2. Studying prophecy with this in mind, what experience will we make? 2 Peter 1:19; John 8:12 i.e. John 1:4, 5

“God speaks to us in His Word. We are in the audience chamber of the Most High, in the very presence of God. Christ enters the heart.” —*My Life Today*, p. 284.

VERIFICATION OF THE DAY STAR

3. Is the Day Star that arises in our hearts a person? Rev. 2:26-28; 22:16

“The perils of the last days are upon us, and in our work we are to warn the people of the danger they are in. Let not the solemn scenes which prophecy has revealed be left untouched. If our people were half awake, if they realized the nearness of the events portrayed in the Revelation, a reformation would be wrought in our churches, and many more would believe the message. We have no time to lose; God calls upon us to watch for souls as they that must give an account. Advance new principles, and crowd in the clear-cut truth. It will be as a sword cutting both ways. But be not too ready to take a controversial attitude. There will be times when we must stand still and see the salvation of God. Let Daniel speak, let the Revelation speak, and tell what is truth. But whatever phase of the subject is presented, uplift Jesus as the center of all hope, "the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright and morning Star."” —*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 118.

4. If prophecy, rightly studied, brings us into intimacy with Jesus and produces a reformation in the churches, how diligently should we approach prophecy? 1 Tim. 4:15, 16; 2 Peter 1:19 (second phrase)

“The Bible is to be our guidebook, and instead of consulting the wisdom of men, and accepting as divine truth the assertions of finite mortals, we should search the sure word of prophecy. God has spoken, and his word is reliable, and we must rest our faith upon a "Thus saith the Lord." God would have us study the events that are taking place around us, and compare them with the predictions of his word, in order that we may understand that we are living in the last days. We want our Bibles, and we want to know what is written therein. The diligent student of prophecy will be rewarded with clear revelations of truth, for Jesus said, "Thy word is truth."” —*The Signs of the Times*, Oct. 1, 1894.

PROPHETIC REFERENCES OF JESUS

“The great themes of the Old Testament were misapprehended and misinterpreted, and Christ's work was to expound the truth which had not been understood by those to whom they had been given. The prophets had made the statements, but the spiritual import of what they had written, was undiscovered by them. They did not see the meaning of the truth. Jesus reproved His disciples for their slowness of comprehension. Many of His precious lessons were lost to them, because they did not understand the spiritual grandeur of His words.” —*Selected Messages Book 1*, p. 404.

5. Where in Daniel and Revelation can we identify the bright and morning Star? Dan. 7:10, 13, 14; Rev. 1:10-13, 17-19

“The instruction to be communicated to John was so important that Christ came from heaven to give it to His servant, telling him to send it to the churches. This instruction is to be the object of our careful and prayerful study; for we are living in a time when men who are not under the teaching of the Holy Spirit will bring in false theories.” —*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 7*, p. 953.

DISCOVERING JESUS IN DANIEL 11

6. Is the vision of Daniel 11 also a revelation of Jesus the Day Star? Dan. 10:4-9

“No less a personage than the Son of God appeared to Daniel. This description is similar to that given by John when Christ was revealed to him upon the Isle of Patmos. Our Lord now comes with another heavenly messenger to teach Daniel what would take place in the latter days. This knowledge was given to Daniel and recorded by Inspiration for us upon whom the ends of the world are come.” —*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 4*, p. 1173.

7. Scanning through Daniel 10:11-12, identify Him as revealed there. Dan. 10:13, 20, 21; 11:20, 22; 12:1. Consider closely Daniel 11:22

“Christ's humanity so completely veiled His glory that it was difficult for even His disciples to believe in Him; and when He died on the cross, they felt that their hopes had perished. As Christ told them the things He must suffer at the hands of wicked men, He said, "If they do these things in a green tree, what shall be done in the dry?" [Luke 23:31]. If they do these

wicked acts to your divine Lord, what will they do to those that bear the testimony that He came from God, that He was God in human flesh?”
—*Manuscript Releases Vol. 12*, p. 393.

MEDITATION

- ☞ If we desire for Christ to arise in our hearts, then let us take diligently to the study of prophecy, and just so in this lesson.

Michael Your Prince

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

OBJECTIVES

- To establish who Michael our Prince really is.
- To associate and yet distinguish the Son of God as one of the angels.
- To appreciate Jesus as our Prince.

WHO IS MICHAEL?

- 1. In the vision of Daniel 10 to 12, how frequently does reference to Michael arise? Dan. 10:12, 13, 21; 12:1**

“We have before us in the Word of God instances of heavenly agencies working on the minds of kings and rulers.

“Heavenly beings are appointed to answer the prayers of those who are working unselfishly for the interests of the cause of God. The very highest angels in the heavenly courts are appointed to work out the prayers which ascend to God for the advancement of the cause of God. Each angel has his particular post of duty, which he is not permitted to leave for any other place. If he should leave, the powers of darkness would gain an advantage.

“Day by day the conflict between good and evil is going on. Why is it that those who have had many opportunities and advantages do not realize the

intensity of this work? They should be intelligent in regard to this. God is the Ruler. By His supreme power He holds in check and controls earthly potentates. Through His agencies He does the work which was ordained before the foundation of the world.” —*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 4*, p. 1173.

2. Where else is Michael spoken of in Scripture by which we can gain an appreciation of His identity? Jude 1:9; Rev. 12:7

“Moses passed through death, but Michael came down and gave him life before his body had seen corruption. Satan tried to hold the body, claiming it as his; but Michael resurrected Moses and took him to heaven. Satan railed bitterly against God, denouncing Him as unjust in permitting his prey to be taken from him; but Christ did not rebuke His adversary, though it was through his temptation that the servant of God had fallen. He meekly referred him to His Father, saying, "The Lord rebuke thee.” —*Early Writings*, p. 164.

3. Which simple scripture clinches the question as to who Michael the archangel is? 1 Thess. 4:16. How does the Spirit of Prophecy verify the conclusion?

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

to turn the heart of the stubborn king to take some decided action to answer the prayer of Daniel.

“”And when he had spoken such words unto me, I set my face toward the ground, and I became dumb. And, behold, one like the similitude of the sons of men touched my lips. . . . And said, O man greatly beloved, fear not: peace be unto thee, be strong, yea, be strong. And when he had spoken unto me, I was strengthened, and said, Let my lord speak; for thou hast strengthened me”. So great was the divine glory revealed to Daniel that he could not endure the sight. Then the messenger of heaven veiled the brightness of his presence and appeared to the prophet as “one like the similitude of the sons of men”. By his divine power he strengthened this man of integrity and of faith, to hear the message sent to him from God.” —*The Sanctified Life*, p. 51.

WAS CHRIST AN ANGEL?

4. What puzzling reference suggest that the Son of God is equated with angels? Judg. 13:17, 18 (margin: *wonderful*); Rev. 10:1

“Manoah and his wife knew not that the One thus addressing them was Jesus Christ.” —*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 2*, p. 1006.

“The mighty angel who instructed John was no less a personage than Jesus Christ. Setting His right foot on the sea, and His left upon the dry land, shows the part which He is acting in the closing scenes of the great controversy with Satan. This position denotes His supreme power and authority over the whole earth.” —*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 7*, p. 971.

5. As the title angel, derived from the Greek “angelos”, means *messenger*, observe the Scriptures applying this to Jesus. Mal. 3:1; Ex. 23:20-23

“Jesus would convince his enemies that his teachings and miracles did not supplant the law, detract from its dignity, or lessen its claims. His works were in strict accordance with both the moral and the ceremonial law. Christ was the angel who went before Moses, and guided the travels of the children of Israel in the wilderness. God had said to Israel, "Behold, I send an angel before thee, to keep thee in the way, and to bring thee into the place which I have prepared. Beware of him, and obey his voice, provoke him not; for he will not pardon your transgressions; for my name is in him. But if thou shalt indeed obey his voice, and do all that I speak, then I will be an enemy unto thine enemies, and an adversary unto thine adversaries." Exodus 23:20-22. This angel, Christ, gave Moses the ceremonies and ordinances of the Jewish law to be repeated to the people.” —*The Review and Herald*, Apr. 29, 1875.

6. How important is this Archangel to us today? Rev. 8:3-5; Heb. 8:1, 2

7. In our study of the rise and fall of kingdoms with all their princes, how is Jesus portrayed? Dan. 11:13, 21-22; 9:25

“Jesus, the Prince of life, took the battle field to meet and to contend with the prince of darkness, and to dispute his claims. From the time of his birth until he hung on Calvary's cross he warred with the evil one in our behalf. His purity of character was a rebuke to the world, and men hated him because of his divine and holy character. He did not come to our world as an angel of glory, but as a man. He was made in the likeness of sinful flesh, and condemned sin in the flesh. With his human arm he encircled the race, and with his divine arm he grasped the throne of the infinite, linked man with God, and earth with heaven.”—*The Signs of the Times*, Apr. 16, 1894.

8. In what sense can we appreciate Him as our Prince? Heb. 12:2, 3

“We are too faithless. We do not take the promises of God, and drink in their rich meaning. We let doubts shut out the consolation of the assurances of God. Suppose a man were condemned to death, but before the sentence was executed, a noble who was able to free him, had compassion upon him, and said, “I will die in his stead,” and the fetters were removed, the prisoner went free, while the noble died. What gratitude would awaken in the doomed man's heart! He would never forget his deliverer. The deed of the noble would be heralded to all parts of the world. This is what Jesus, the Prince of heaven, has done for us. When we were under the condemnation of death, he came to rescue us, to set us free from the bondage of Satan, and to deliver us from everlasting death. With his own precious blood he paid the penalty of our transgression. Does not gratitude awaken in your heart for this wonderful love? Is it not your determination to yield all you have and are to the service of such a Saviour? Will you not become a laborer together with God, seeking the salvation of those for whom Christ died?” —*The Review and Herald*, Sept. 16, 1890.

MEDITATION

- Are you often overwhelmed in the battles of life?
- Do you need a vision to reveal the conquering Prince?
- Study this lesson carefully to inspire inward victory as manifested in the following statement.

“Fallen man is Satan's lawful captive. The mission of Christ was to rescue him from the power of his great adversary. Man is naturally inclined to follow Satan's suggestions, and he cannot successfully resist so terrible a foe unless Christ, the mighty Conqueror, dwells in him, guiding his desires, and giving him strength. God alone can limit the power of Satan. . . . Satan knows better than God's people the power that they can have over him when their strength is in Christ. When they humbly entreat the mighty Conqueror for help, the weakest believer in the truth, relying firmly upon

Christ, can successfully repulse Satan and all his host.” —*God’s Amazing Grace*, p. 257.

God's Orchestration

The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will. Proverbs 21:1

OBJECTIVES

- To learn God's method of bringing about His will on earth while still giving human beings freedom of choice.
- To prepare our mind to see this in the study of Daniel 11.
- To recognise Christ's impact on hearts and minds when He entered on the stage of earth's history.

MAN'S CHOICE

- 1. How does the Bible show that God does not interfere with man's free will? Prov. 23:26; Deut. 30:19**

“It is not the plan of God to compel men to yield their wicked unbelief. Before them are light and darkness, truth and error. It is for them to decide which to accept.” —*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 1*, p. 112.

- 2. How was this expressed by Joshua and Elijah? Josh. 24:15; 1 Ki. 18:21**

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

CAUSE TO EFFECT

3. If God does not exercise authoritarian methods to compel, why are there scriptural records of punishment for insubordination to Him? Gal. 6:7-9

“God does not stand toward the sinner as an executioner of the sentence against transgression; but He leaves the rejectors of His mercy to themselves, to reap that which they have sown. Every ray of light rejected, every warning despised or unheeded, every passion indulged, every transgression of the law of God, is a seed sown which yields its unfailing harvest.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 36.

4. How do the Bible and Sprit of Prophecy express it elsewhere? Prov. 26:2

“We should know for ourselves what constitutes Christianity, what is truth, what is the faith that we have received, what are the Bible rules--the rules given us from the highest authority. There are many who believe, without a reason on which to base their faith, without sufficient evidence as to the truth of the matter. If an idea is presented that harmonizes with their own preconceived opinions, they are all ready to accept it. They do not reason from cause to effect. Their faith has no genuine foundation, and in the time of trial they will find that they have built upon the sand.” —*Mind, Character, and Personality Vol. 2*, p. 535.

GOD'S INFLUENCE

5. Does God have no input in steering the decisions of human beings and their consequences? 2 Ch. 18:18-22 i.e. 2 Thess. 2:10-12

“Caiaphas was the one that was to be in office when types and shadows were to meet the reality, when the true High Priest was to come into office. Each actor in history stands in his lot and place; for God's great work after His own plan will be carried out by men who have prepared themselves to fill positions for good or evil. In opposition to righteousness, men become instruments of unrighteousness. But their course of action is unforced. They need not have become instruments of unrighteousness any more than need Cain. God said to him, "If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door" [Genesis 4:7]. Cain would not hear the voice of God, and as a result, he killed his brother.

“Men of all characters, righteous and unrighteous, will stand in their positions. With the characters they have formed, they will act their part in the fulfillment of history. In a crisis, just at the right moment, men will stand in the places they have prepared themselves to fill. Believers and unbelievers will fall into line as witnesses, to confirm truth which they do not themselves comprehend. All will cooperate in accomplishing the purposes of God, as did Annas, Caiaphas, Pilate, and Herod.” —*Manuscript Releases Vol. 12*, p. 390.

6. How is this activity of God's influence introduced in Daniel's vision of chapters 10 to 12? Dan. 10:12, 13, 20; 11:1. Compare with Isa. 44:28; 45:1-6; Ezra 1:1-8 i.e. Prov. 21:11

IMPACT OF CHRIST ON HISTORY

7. If Christ (Michael) and Gabriel influenced the minds of humanity behind the scenes, what happened when Jesus came visibly onto the stage of earth's drama? Luke 2:34; Isa. 9:2, 6; 49:6, 7

“By the life and the death of Christ, the thoughts of men also are brought to view. From the manger to the cross, the life of Jesus was a call to self-surrender, and to fellowship in suffering. It unveiled the purposes of men. Jesus came with the truth of heaven, and all who were listening to the voice of the Holy Spirit were drawn to Him. The worshipers of self-belonged to Satan's kingdom. In their attitude toward Christ, all would show on which side they stood. And thus, everyone passes judgment on himself.”

—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 57.

8. What impact would the death of Christ have on all humanity? John 12:31, 32

“The wisdom of God was displayed in sending his Son to the world at a time when the Roman power held sway. Had the Jewish economy possessed full authority, we should not now have a history of the life and ministry of Christ among men. The jealous priests and rulers would have quickly made away with so formidable a rival. He would have been stoned to death on the false accusation of breaking the law of God. The Jews put no one to death by crucifixion; that was a Roman method of punishment; there would therefore have been no cross upon Calvary. Prophecy would not then have been fulfilled; for Christ was to be lifted up in the most public manner on the cross, as the serpent was lifted up in the wilderness.”

—*The Spirit of Prophecy Vol. 3*, p. 180.

MEDITATION

∞ Consider *The Desire of Ages*, p. 56 par. 3.

“Yet Mary did not understand Christ's mission. Simeon had prophesied of Him as a light to lighten the Gentiles, as well as a glory to Israel. Thus the angels had announced the Saviour's birth as tidings of joy to all peoples. God was seeking to correct the narrow, Jewish conception of the Messiah's work. He desired men to behold Him, not merely as the deliverer of Israel, but as the Redeemer of the world. But many years must pass before even the mother of Jesus would understand His mission.” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 56.

∞ As we study the detail of Daniel 11, it becomes evident that Christ orchestrates all the events on earth. Look at the impact He made on the human race by coming to earth. Even BC and AD reveals that humanity measures ages by the arrival of Christ on earth.

Overview of Daniel 11

Now I am come to make thee understand what shall befall thy people in the latter days: for yet the vision is for many days. Daniel 10:14

OBJECTIVES

- To take a sweeping glance over the entire vision.
- To observe that the beginning events and their locality remain the guiding principle to the very end.
- To recognise that no symbolism is effective in the vision.

EXPANSE OF THE VISION

1. What period of time does the vision of Daniel 11 embrace?

Dan. 10:14; 11:1-12:4, 9

“Read the book of Daniel. Call up, point by point, the history of the kingdoms there represented. Behold statesmen, councils, powerful armies, and see how God wrought to abase pride and lay human glory in the dust. God alone is represented as great. In the vision of the prophet He is seen casting down one mighty ruler and setting up another. He is revealed as the monarch of the universe, about to set up His everlasting kingdom—the Ancient of days, the living God, the Source of all wisdom, the Ruler of the present, the Revealer of the future. Read and understand how poor, how frail, how short-lived, how erring, how guilty, are mortals.” —*Christ Triumphant*, p. 335.

2. What does Jesus say regarding His ability to describe the details of events over such time expanses? John 13:19; Isa. 46:8-10

“I Am means an eternal presence; the past, present, and future are alike to God. He sees the most remote events of past history, and the far distant future with as clear a vision as we do those things that are transpiring daily.” —*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 1*, p. 1099.

3. For whose benefit was this vision given? Dan. 10:14 (first part); 1 Cor. 1:4-8

“The judgments of God are in the land. The wars and rumors of wars, the destruction by fire and flood, say clearly that the time of trouble, which is to increase until the end, is very near at hand. We have no time to lose. The world is stirred with the spirit of war. The prophecies of the eleventh of Daniel have almost reached their final fulfillment.” —*Welfare Ministry*, p. 136.

“The light that Daniel received direct from God was given especially for these last days. The visions he saw by the banks of the Ulai and the Hiddekel, the great rivers of Shinar, are now in process of fulfillment, and all the events foretold will soon have come to pass.” —*Christ Triumphant*, p. 335.

OPENING DETAIL

4. What are the opening prophetic events of the vision? Dan. 11:2-6. Where shall we look for the explanation of these scriptures? Let Inspiration tell us.

“The truth for this time has been brought out in many books. Let those who have been dealing in cheap sentiments and foolish tests, cease this work and study Daniel and the Revelation. They will then have something to talk about that will help the mind. As they receive the knowledge contained in this book, they will have in the treasure house of the mind a store from which they can continually draw as they communicate to others the great, essential truths of God's Word.

“The interest in Daniel and the Revelation is to continue as long as probationary time shall last. God used the author of this book as a channel through which to communicate light to direct minds to the truth. Shall we not appreciate this light, which points us to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, our King?” —*Manuscript Releases Vol. 1*, pp. 62, 63.

5. What is Daniel 11:2-4 telling us?

Verse 2 — “Three kings shall yet stand up in Persia. To stand up means to reign; three kings were to reign in Persia, referring, doubtless, to the immediate successors of Cyrus. These were, (1) Cambyses, son of Cyrus; (2) Smerdis, an imposter; (3) Darius Hystaspes.

“The fourth shall be far richer than they all. The fourth king from Cyrus was Xerxes, more famous for his riches than his generalship, and conspicuous in history for the magnificent campaign he organized against Grecia, and his utter failure in that enterprise. He was to stir up all against the realm of Grecia.” —Uriah Smith, *Daniel and The Revelation* (1897 edition), pp. 247, 248.

Verses 3 and 4 — Who was this mighty king?

“The facts stated in these verses plainly point to Alexander, and the division of his empire. Xerxes was the last Persian king who invaded Grecia; and the prophecy passes over the nine successors of Xerxes in the Persian empire, and

next introduces Alexander the Great. Having overthrown the Persian empire, Alexander "became absolute lord of that empire, in the utmost extent in which it was ever possessed by any of the Persian kings." - Prideaux, Vol.I, p.477. His dominion was great, including "the greater portion of the then known habitable world;" and he did according to his will. His will led him, B.C.323, into a drunken debauch, as the result of which he died as the fool dieth; [...] The kingdom was divided, but not for his posterity; it was plucked up for others besides those. Within a few years after his death, all his posterity had fallen victims to the jealousy and ambition of his leading generals. [...] The kingdom was rent into four divisions, and taken possession of by Alexander's four ablest, or perhaps most ambitious and unprincipled generals, - Cassander, Lysimachus, Seleucus and Ptolemy."

"The divisions of Alexander's kingdom with respect to Palestine were situated as follows: Cassander had Greece and the adjacent countries, which lay to the west; Lysimachus had Thrace, which then included Asia Minor, and the countries lying on the Hellespont and Bosphorus, which lay to the north of Palestine; Seleucus had Syria and Babylon, which lay principally to the east; and Ptolemy had Egypt and the neighboring countries, which lay to the south." —Uriah Smith, *Ibid.*, pp. 248, 249.

Verse 5 — The development of north and south

"During the wars and revolutions which for long ages succeeded, these geographical boundaries were frequently changed or obliterated..."

"Cassander was very soon conquered by Lysimachus, and his kingdom, Greece and Macedon, annexed to Thrace. And Lysimachus was in turn conquered by Seleucus, and Macedon and Thrace annexed to Syria.

"These facts prepare the way for an application of the text before us. The king of the south, Egypt, shall be strong. Ptolemy annexed Cyprus, Phoenicia, Caria, Cyrene, and many islands and cities to Egypt. Thus was his kingdom made strong. But another of Alexander's princes is introduced in the expression, "one of his princes." The Septuagint translates the verse thus: "And the king of the south shall be strong, and one of his [Alexander's] princes shall be strong above him." This must refer to Seleucus, who, as already stated, having annexed Macedon and Thrace to Syria, thus became possessor of three parts out of four of Alexander's dominion, and established a more powerful kingdom than that of Egypt."

—Uriah Smith, *Ibid.*, pp. 249, 250.

TERRITORIES OF NORTH AND SOUTH

- 6. As we read from verse 6 right through to verse 45, we observe references to the king of the north and the king of the south; how are these to be understood throughout this vision?**

“But whatever changes might occur, these first divisions of the empire must determine the names which these portions of territory should ever afterward bear, or we have no standard by which to test the application of the prophecy: that is, whatever power at any time should occupy the territory which at first constituted the kingdom of the north, that power, so long as it occupied that territory, would be the king of the north; and whatever power should occupy that which at first constituted the kingdom of the south, that power would so long be the king of the south. We speak of only these two, because they are the only ones afterward spoken of in the prophecy, and because, in fact, almost the whole of Alexander’s empire finally resolved itself into these two divisions.” —Uriah Smith, *Ibid.*, p. 249.

MEDITATION

- ☞ Marvelous is the prospect of our study. The “I AM” has set the stage for us to engage with Him in His detailed foreknowledge, to place before our minds a vast unfolding of past, present, and future as something transpiring before us daily. As the territory of north and south of the empire is occupied by different powers through to our time, we have no need to interpret the prophecy from symbols, but as direct literal phenomena.

- “We now enter upon a prophecy of future events, clothed not in figures and symbols, as in the visions of chapter 2, 7, and 8, but given mostly in plain language.” —Uriah Smith, *Ibid.*, p. 247.

- ☞ What we are looking at is Christ and angels interacting with the events of political and human affairs behind the scenes. Remarkable privilege.

God Orchestrates Persia and Greece

I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things. Isaiah 45:7

OBJECTIVES

- To examine more closely the movements of God's interactions with specific individuals.
- To discover the principle behind the rise and fall of empires.
- To behold and marvel over the revelation of human quests prompted by their desires and passions, and God's use of them to fulfill His plans and will.

IMPORTANT INSIGHTS

- 1. What is it that motivates kings to war against other kingdoms? James 4:1. How is this motive revealed by God in His judgments after the seventh millennium?**

“Men seek to bear rule over their fellow men, and the results show that those so-called reforms are instigated by a power from beneath. An intense desire to rule has been taking possession of men's minds. And the rulers themselves are controlled by the princes of the power of the air.”
—*Manuscript Releases Vol. 17*, p. 316.

“In that vast throng are multitudes of the long-lived race that existed before the Flood; men of lofty stature and giant intellect, who, yielding to the

control of fallen angels, devoted all their skill and knowledge to the exaltation of themselves; men whose wonderful works of art led the world to idolize their genius, but whose cruelty and evil inventions, defiling the earth and defacing the image of God, caused Him to blot them from the face of His creation. There are kings and generals who conquered nations, valiant men who never lost a battle, proud, ambitious warriors whose approach made kingdoms tremble. In death these experienced no change. As they come up from the grave, they resume the current of their thoughts just where it ceased. They are actuated by the same desire to conquer that ruled them when they fell.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 664.

2. How does God orchestrate this trait in the hearts of kings and rulers? Jer. 51:44; 30:14-16

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

3. How is this revealed in the launch of Daniel 11 with the first king of the Medo-Persian Empire, and next with Cyrus? Dan. 11:1; 10:1, 12, 13

“By this we see that heavenly agencies have to contend with hindrances before the purpose of God is fulfilled in its time. The king of Persia was

controlled by the highest of all evil angels. He refused, as did Pharaoh, to obey the word of the Lord. Gabriel declared, He withstood me twenty-one days by his representations against the Jews. But Michael came to his help, and then he remained with the kings of Persia, holding the powers in check, giving right counsel against evil counsel. Good and evil angels are taking a part in the planning of God in His earthly kingdom. It is God's purpose to carry forward His work in correct lines, in ways that will advance His glory. But Satan is ever trying to counterwork God's purpose.” —*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 4*, p. 1173.

PERSIA ON THE STAGE OF ACTION

4. What did God use the desire to conquer in the heart of Darius and Cyrus to achieve? Jer. 51:47-49 i.e. verses 11, 12, 28; Isa. 45:1-3

“The advent of the army of Cyrus before the walls of Babylon was to the Jews a sign that their deliverance from captivity was drawing nigh. More than a century before the birth of Cyrus, Inspiration had mentioned him by name, and had caused a record to be made of the actual work he should do in taking the city of Babylon unawares, and in preparing the way for the release of the children of the captivity.”

“In the unexpected entry of the army of the Persian conqueror into the heart of the Babylonian capital by way of the channel of the river whose waters had been turned aside, and through the inner gates that in careless security had been left open and unprotected, the Jews had abundant evidence of the literal fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy concerning the sudden overthrow of their oppressors. And this should have been to them an unmistakable sign that God was shaping the affairs of nations in their behalf...” —*Prophets and Kings*, pp. 551, 552.

5. What part of God's plan for His people was Cyrus and his empire raised to achieve? Isa. 44:28; Ezra 1:1, 2; 6:13-14

“The Lord has resources. His hand is on the machinery. When the time came for His temple to be rebuilt, He moved upon Cyrus as His agent to discern the prophecies concerning Himself, and to grant the Jewish people their liberty. And more, Cyrus furnished them the necessary facilities for rebuilding the temple of the Lord. This work began under Cyrus, and his successor carried on the work begun.” —*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 4*, p. 1175.

6. What did the angel Gabriel reveal in reference to the greed for power and thirst to conquer in the fourth successor from Cyrus that would prove Medo-Persia’s ultimate demise? Dan. 11:2

“The fourth king from Cyrus was Xerxes, [...] He was to stir up all against the realm of Grecia. Never before had there been such a levy of men for warlike purposes; never has there been since. His army, according to Herodotus, who lived in that age, consisted of five million two hundred and eighty-three thousand two hundred and twenty men (5,283,220). And not content with stirring up the East alone, he enlisted the Carthaginians of the West in his service, who took the field with an additional army of three hundred thousand men, raising his entire force to the almost fabulous number of over five million and a half.” —Uriah Smith, *Daniel and The Revelation* (1897 edition), p. 248.

GREECE TAKES THE STAGE

7. Who was the power-hungry monarch who now takes central stage? Dan. 11:3

“Xerxes was the last Persian king who invaded Grecia; and the prophecy passes over the nine successors of Xerxes in the Persian empire, and next introduces Alexander the Great.”

“The conquests of Grecia under Alexander have no parallel in historic annals for suddenness and rapidity. [...] Alexander, in less than eight years, marched his army upward of seventeen hundred leagues or more than fifty-one hundred miles.” —Uriah Smith, *Ibid.*, pp. 248, 128, 131.

8. While Alexander was esteemed as great, what did the angel divulge regarding the short-lived fruit of his conquest? Dan. 11:4 (1st part)

“His dominion was great, including "the greater portion of the then known habitable world;" and he did according to his will. His will led him, B.C.323, into a drunken debauch, as the result of which he died as the fool dieth; and his vainglorious and ambitious projects went into sudden, total, and everlasting eclipse. The kingdom was divided...” —Uriah Smith, *Ibid.*, p. 248.

“Alexander found it much easier to subdue kingdoms than to rule his own spirit. After conquering nations, this so-called great man fell through the indulgence of appetite,—a victim of intemperance.” —*Christian Temperance and Bible Hygiene*, p. 29.

MEDITATION

- ☞ As the Medo-Persian Empire came into existence prompted by the pride of conquest, it is evident that in due time it must fall to be taken over by the next. i.e. Psalm 73:6: “Pride compasseth them about as a chain, violence covereth them as a garment”; and Proverbs 16:18: “Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.”

While this principle stands back of the rise and fall of empires, it is awesome to behold God engaging this to bring about His will for His people, and ultimately for all humanity.

Greece's Internal Conflicts

*He beholdeth all high things: he is a king over all the children of pride.
Job 41:34*

OBJECTIVES

- To observe that the pride of man will even produce war and conflict within the inner circle of leadership.
- To reflect on the activities of Michael and Gabriel as they orchestrate internal conflicts to initiate a stage for future world events.
- To marvel over God's foreknowledge of detail in humanity.

INTERNATIONAL DESTRUCTIVE ELEMENTS

- 1. What elements of pride produce confusion, evil, and destruction?
James 3:16; Gal. 5:15, 19-21**

“In the family and in the nation, among the highest and the lowest classes alike, there was suspicion, envy, hatred, strife, rebellion, murder. There was no safety anywhere. Friends and kindred betrayed one another.... The rulers of the people had no power to rule themselves. Uncontrolled passions made them tyrants.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 28.

- 2. How was this manifest in the Grecian empire after the death of Alexander the Great? Dan. 11:4**

“Within a few years after his [Alexander’s] death, all his posterity had fallen victims to the jealousy and ambition of his leading generals. Not one of the race of Alexander was left to breathe upon the earth. So short is the transit from the highest pinnacle of earthly glory to the lowest depths of oblivion and death. The kingdom was rent into four divisions, and taken possession of by Alexander’s four ablest, or perhaps most ambitious and unprincipled generals, - Cassander, Lysimachus, Seleucus and Ptolemy.”
—Uriah Smith, *Daniel and The Revelation* (1897 edition), p. 248.

3. What further envy and pride-motivated activities continued between these four generals? Dan. 11:5

“Cassander was very soon conquered by Lysimachus... And Lysimachus was in turn conquered by Seleucus, [...] [Seleucus] thus, became possessor of three parts out of four of Alexander's dominion, and established a more powerful kingdom than that of Egypt.” —Uriah Smith, *Ibid.*, p. 250.

WIDER REFERENCE MATERIAL

4. For deeper insights into our study of Daniel’s vision, where else can we find help according to Spirit of Prophecy?

“These men followed on step by step in the very fulfillment of prophecy, and those who have not had a personal experience in this work, are to take the Word of God and believe on "their word" who have been led by the Lord in the proclamation of the first, second, and third angels' messages. These messages, received and acted upon, are doing their work to prepare a people to stand in the great day of God. If we search the Scriptures to confirm the truth God has given His servants for the world, we shall be

found proclaiming the first, second, and third angels' messages.” —*Selected Messages Book 2*, p. 111.

- ☞ Hence we will refer to Stephen Haskell’s books, Uriah Smith’s book “Daniel and The Revelation”, and the International Sabbath-school Quarterly “The Prophecies of Daniel” (First Quarter 1904).

ON THE STAGE OF NORTH AND SOUTH

5. Now that Greece’s empire has melted down to north and south, namely Seleucus and Ptolemy, what spiritual significance does this pose for God’s people? Job 12:17-19

“There is, however, something aside from the mere succession of kings which is worthy of notice. Gabriel gave Daniel the framework of the history of Greece. We have in the inspired record something which corresponds to the skeleton in the human body, and the flesh and organs of life need to be put in. These nations which were then in existence were a shelter, perhaps, a scaffolding, built about God's people, offering them another opportunity to work. The Spirit of God was working in the courts of monarchs as faithfully as ever. At the same time the controversy between truth and error never for a moment abated.” —Stephen N. Haskell, *The Story of Daniel the Prophet*, p. 189.

6. Where were the people of God (Jews) situated in reference to the north and south? Ezek. 5:5. For what purpose?

“God singled out the Hebrew nation and connected them with himself, that he might make them representatives of his own character. He would make

them a beacon of light to all surrounding nations, that his name might be glorified, and his service exalted.” —*The Signs of the Times*, March 3, 1881.

TESTING OF NATIONS INCLUDING JEWS

7. Realising that the vision of Daniel 11 was given during the rebuilding of Jerusalem, what was God orchestrating to impact the Jewish mind as well as ours? Deut. 8:2

“Prophecy has traced the rise and fall of the world's great empires--Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome. With each of these, as with nations of less power, history repeated itself. Each had its period of test, [...] While the nations rejected God's principles, and in this rejection wrought their own ruin, it was still manifest that the divine, overruling purpose was working through all their movements.” —*Education*, pp. 176, 177.

8. Passing through all the detail of the events of national failure of their tests, how will all these nations finally deal with each other in God's foreknowledge? Ezek. 7:25, 26; Lam. 2:9; Jer. 25:29

MEDITATION

☞ Do we realise what we are studying here? “Now I am come to make thee understand what shall befall thy people in the latter days.” Dan. 10:14. Consider prayerfully the following:

“There is a time of trouble coming to the people of God, but we are not to keep that constantly before the people, and rein them up to have a time of trouble beforehand. There is to be a shaking among God's people; but this is not the present truth to carry to the churches; it will be the result of refusing the truth presented.

“The ministers should not feel that they have some wonderful advanced ideas, and unless all receive these, they will be shaken out, and a people will arise to go forward and upward to the victory. Satan’s object is accomplished just as surely when people run ahead of Christ and do the work He has never entrusted to their hands, as when they remain in the Laodicean state, lukewarm, feeling rich and increased with goods, and in need of nothing. The two classes are equally stumbling blocks.” —*Christ Triumphant*, p. 363.

Orchestration of Family Feuds

The LORD bringeth the counsel of the heathen to nought: he maketh the devices of the people of none effect. Psalm 33:10

OBJECTIVES

- To show that the machinations of human endeavor fail miserably to achieve their goals.
- To reveal that human passions are the source of social breakdown which weakens political stability.
- Once again to show that God interacts among the human chaos to bring His purpose to fruition.

ONGOING COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH

1. As the Grecian empire is split in two, are the factions trying to unite their forces? Dan. 11:6 (1st half)

“There were frequent wars between the kings of Egypt and Syria. Especially was this the case with Ptolemy Philadelphus, the second king of Egypt, and Antiochus Theos, third king of Syria. They at length agreed to make peace upon condition that Antiochus Theos should put away his former wife, Laodice, and her two sons, and should marry Berenice, the daughter of Ptolemy Philadelphus. Ptolemy accordingly brought his daughter to

Antiochus, bestowing with her an immense dowry.” —Uriah Smith, *Daniel and The Revelation* (1897 edition), p. 250.

2. Reasoning from cause to effect, and knowing of God’s law regarding divorce and remarriage (see Gal. 6:7, 8 (first part) and Matt. 19:9), what would be the natural consequence orchestrated by the holy watchers? Ps. 33:10; Prov. 3:33; Song 8:6

“How is the world treating the law of God? Everywhere men are working against the divine precepts. In their desire to evade the cross-bearing attendant on obedience, even the churches are taking sides with the great apostate in claiming that the law of God has been changed or abrogated. Men in their blindness boast of wonderful progress and enlightenment; but the heavenly watchers see the earth filled with corruption and violence. Because of sin the atmosphere of our world has become as the atmosphere of a pesthouse.” —*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 6*, p. 10.

“Human pen can not make the history any plainer than did Gabriel in relating it to Daniel nearly two hundred years before it occurred. Berenice lost favor in the eyes of Antiochus Theos, who thereupon recalled Laodice. The jealous wife then caused Antiochus to be poisoned and placed her own son on the throne. Through her influence, also, Berenice, her child by Antiochus, and her Egyptian attendants and supporters, were all murdered.” —Stephen N. Haskell, *The Story of Daniel the Prophet*, p. 194.

ONGOING WARS

3. How does God orchestrate human responses to sins and atrocities? Jer. 30:16 i.e. Dan. 11:7-9

“This branch out of the same root with Berenice was her brother, Ptolemy Euergetes. He had no sooner succeeded his father, Ptolemy Philadelphus, in

the kingdom of Egypt, then, burning to avenge the death of his sister, Berenice, he raised an immense army, and invaded the territory of the king of the north, that is, of Seleucus Callinicus, who, with his mother, Laodice, reigned in Syria. And he prevailed against them.” —Uriah Smith, *Ibid.*, p. 251.

4. Although the king of Egypt obtained the territory of the north, how did the conquered family make a comeback? Dan. 11:10

“The sons of Seleucus Callinicus were Seleucus Ceraunus and Antiochus Magnus. [...] His more capable brother, Antiochus Magnus [...] taking charge of the army, retook Seleucia and recovered Syria, making himself master of some places by treaty, and of others by force of arms. A truce followed, wherein both sides treated for peace, yet prepared for war.” —Uriah Smith, *Ibid.*, p. 253.

IMPACT ON THE JEWS

5. Recalling that Jerusalem and Canaan were located in the path of the armies in their marches north and south, how were the Jews impacted by this activity? Dan. 11:11, 12

“About the time of the accession of Antiochus Magnus to the Syrian throne, Ptolemy Philopater took the throne in Egypt. He manifested no disposition to invade the territory of the king of the north, being indolent, and a great lover of luxury and ease, but he was aroused by the prospects of an invasion of Egypt, his own throne being threatened by Antiochus Magnus. Antiochus was supported by an immense army, which fell into the hands of Ptolemy Philopater, who, elated by his victory, returned to his capital to feast.”

“Ptolemy Philopater did even worse things, for in self-esteem he entered Jerusalem, and attempted to profane the temple by himself offering sacrifice. The restraint offered by the priests so incensed him that he began war against

them, and history states that between forty and sixty thousand Jews, who then lived in Egypt, fell by the sword. Those Jews who sought Egypt, either for protection or for the advantages of her schools and libraries, withdrew from the sheltering hand of their God, and the time came sooner or later when they felt the wrath of the enemy. Through all these struggles the nation whom God had chosen might have stood as a beacon on a hill, instead of being trampled upon by every army in its marches between Egypt and Syria.” —Stephen N. Haskell, *Ibid.*, pp. 195, 196.

☞ “But he shall not be strengthened by it.”

6. What were the Jews doing by their tens of thousands in Egypt, and what is written that they once again ignored? Isa. 31:3

“Israel had once been miraculously delivered from physical bondage in Egypt. They had been warned against fleeing to Egypt for protection in the days of Nebuchadnezzar at the siege of Jerusalem. They may have escaped the bondage of those earlier times, but they were captured by the learning of the Greeks. In the days of Ptolemy Soter, many Jews flocked into Egypt, and those who remained in Jerusalem and Palestine imbibed many of the ideas of the Greeks.” —Stephen N. Haskell, *Ibid.*, p. 190.

MEDITATION

☞ How swiftly was history repeated in consideration of the word of God in Jeremiah 30:14-16?

“We are living in a momentous period of this earth's history. The final conflict is just before us. We see the world corrupted under the inhabitants thereof. Satanic agencies have made the earth a stage for horrors that no language can describe. War and bloodshed are carried on by nations claiming to be Christian. A disregard for God's law has brought the sure result.” —*The Youth Instructor*, Sept. 22, 1903.

Kings of the North and South

Out of the south cometh the whirlwind: and scattering winds out of the north. Job 37:9 (margin)

OBJECTIVES

- To learn that a disregard for God's counsel has serious consequences.
- To identify God's long-term objective revealed in shorter term events.
- To behold the stealthy rise of the Roman Empire.

GOD'S PROMISE FOR NATIONAL ISRAEL

1. What was in God's heart for Israel if they would hearken faithfully to Him? Deut. 28:13

“Their obedience to the laws of God would make them marvels of prosperity before the nations of the world. He who could give them wisdom and skill in all cunning work would continue to be their teacher and would ennoble and elevate them through obedience to His laws. If obedient, they would be preserved from the diseases that afflicted other nations and would be blessed with vigor of intellect. The glory of God, His majesty and power, were to be revealed in all their prosperity. They were to be a kingdom of priests and princes. God furnished them with every facility for becoming the greatest nation on the earth.” —*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 6, p. 222.*

2. What was God’s warning if Israel would disregard His commands. Deut. 28:15 i.e. 28:64-66. Read other texts from verses 15 to 68.

3. How did Israel prove to live? Isa. 1:20, 21

“Through disloyalty, God's chosen people developed a character exactly the opposite of the character He desired them to develop. They placed their own mold and superscription upon the truth. They forgot God, and lost sight of their high privilege as His representatives. The blessings they had received brought no blessing to the world. All their advantages were appropriated for their own glorification. They robbed God of the service He required of them, and they robbed their fellow men of religious guidance and a holy example. Like the inhabitants of the antediluvian world, they followed out every imagination of their evil hearts. Thus they made sacred things appear a farce, saying, "The temple of the Lord, The temple of the Lord, are these," while at the same time they were misrepresenting God's character, dishonoring His name, and polluting His sanctuary.” —*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 4, p. 1181.*

GOD’S PATIENT WARNINGS PROCESS

4. God having restored to them their land and city after Babylonian captivity, what opportunities did they then miss? Matt. 23:34. What longing did God express? Hos. 11:7, 8

“These nations which were then in existence were a shelter.... built about God's people, offering them another opportunity to work. The Spirit of God was working in the courts of monarchs as faithfully as ever.” —Stephen. N. Haskell, *The Story of Daniel the Prophet*, p. 189.

5. Although patient and loath to give them up, what does He declare, and how is it revealed in our study? Isa. 46:8-11

“Those Jews who sought Egypt, either for protection or for the advantages of her schools and libraries, withdrew from the sheltering hand of their God, and the time came sooner or later when they felt the wrath of the enemy. Through all these struggles the nation whom God had chosen might have stood as a beacon on a hill, instead of being trampled upon by every army in its marches between Egypt and Syria.” —Stephen N. Haskell, *Ibid.*, p. 196.

THE INTRODUCTION OF ROME

6. What are the next events that prove the way to bring about the purposes of God? Dan. 11:13

“The events predicted in this verse were to occur "after certain years." The peace concluded between Ptolemy Philopater and Antiochus lasted fourteen years. Meanwhile Ptolemy died from intemperance and debauchery, and was succeeded by his son, Ptolemy Epiphanes , a child then four or five years old.” —Uriah Smith, *Daniel and The Revelation* (1897 edition), p. 255.

“Antiochus Magnus took advantage of this seeming weakness in Egyptian affairs and made extensive preparations to invade Egypt with the design of swallowing the entire dominion of the Ptolemies, But the Most High ruleth in the kingdoms of men, and Antiochus was brought to realize that there was another power on earth as well as in heaven.” —Stephen N. Haskell, *Ibid.*, p. 197.

7. What was that other power on earth which Antiochus did not take into account? Dan. 11:14

“The fourteenth verse of the eleventh chapter of Daniel, [...] introduces a new power. Gabriel, in narrating the events connected with the history of Greece, brought that empire down to the time when the southern division was in the hands of a child, Ptolemy Epiphanes, and when two men, Philip of Macedon and Antiochus of Syria, although jealous of each other, were willing to unite their strength in order to subdue Egypt. From a political point of view a general weakness prevailed in the once mighty empire of Alexander. Without noticing the details, the angel of prophecy speaks of the first appearance of the fourth kingdom as it comes in contact with the divisions of the third kingdom, Greece. This fourth kingdom is thus introduced: "The violent opposers of thy people shall exalt themselves that the vision may stand."” —Stephen N. Haskell, *Ibid.*, p. 200.

“Rome spoke; and Syria and Macedonia soon found a change coming over the aspect of their dream. The Romans interfered in behalf of the young king of Egypt, determined that he should be protected from the ruin devised by Antiochus and Philip. This was B.C.200 and was one of the first important interferences of the Romans in the affairs of Syria and Egypt.” —Uriah Smith, *Ibid.*, p. 256.

MEDITATION

“Men of all characters, righteous and unrighteous, will stand in their positions. With the characters they have formed, they will act their part in the fulfillment of history. In a crisis, just at the right moment, men will stand in the places they have prepared themselves to fill. Believers and unbelievers will fall into line as witnesses, to confirm truth which they do not themselves comprehend. All will cooperate in accomplishing the purposes of God.” —*Manuscript Releases Vol. 12*, p. 390.

Robbers of Thy People

They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof. Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices. Proverbs 1:30, 31

OBJECTIVES

- To provide evidence as to who the robbers of God's people are.
- To enlarge the reason why God orchestrated these robbers.
- To observe how Rome was used by God to impact world history to the end.

BLESSINGS OR CURSES

- 1. On what condition does God pour out His full blessings upon the people He calls to be His? Deut. 28:1; Ex. 15:26; Rom. 10:9; 2 Cor. 13:1-4. Is this an arbitrary aspect of God? Recall Gal. 6:7 i.e. Ezek. 18:30-32**

“There was no arbitrary choice on the part of God by which Esau was shut out from the blessings of salvation. The gifts of His grace through Christ are free to all. There is no election but one's own by which any may perish.”
—*Conflict and Courage*, p. 71.

“The promise of God to us is on condition of obedience, compliance with all His requirements.”—*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 2*, p. 146.

2. How clear did God make this to His chosen nation? Deut. 11:26-28

“Three days the people were before the mount. During this time, they had ample opportunity to review their past course of murmuring and impatience, and to repent. God had given them his gracious promise that they should become a peculiar treasure unto him, on condition of obedience; but if they were disobedient, he would reject them, and choose another people.” —*The Signs of the Times*, Apr. 22, 1880.

3. What is unfolding in the vision of Daniel 11 to show that the nation was choosing the curse? Prov. 1:23-33

4. Among the curses given upon disregard of God’s counsel, what would ultimately happen to the Jews? Deut. 28:47-52

A NATION FROM FAR

5. As to the fall of the Eastern Roman Empire, how did religion play an ever greater part by the engagement of the Muslim Saracens? Rev. 9:1-3, 11

“Moses, in the scripture just referred to [Deuteronomy 28:49], says, "Whose tongue thou shalt not understand." This could not be said of the Babylonians, Persians, or Greeks, in reference to the Jews; for the Chaldean and Greek languages were used to a greater or less extent in Palestine. This was not the case, however, with the Latin.” —Uriah Smith, *Daniel and The Revelation* (1897 edition), p. 203.

“The Jews had forged their own fetters; they had filled for themselves the cup of vengeance. In the utter destruction that befell them as a nation, and in all the woes that followed them in their dispersion, they were but reaping the harvest which their own hands had sown.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 35.

6. What prophetic picture in Daniel chapter 2 reveals that Rome would have its place over at the closing events of earth’s history? Dan. 2:40-43, 45

“As the plans of the arch-enemy had failed to carry in the history of Babylon, Medo-Persia, and Greece, he now attempted with redoubled vigor to thwart the plans of God. He chose for this purpose the seven-hilled city. His plans were deep laid, and the structure that he reared was builded on a firm foundation. Like a lighthouse off some rocky coast, the great planner hoped it would stand the mighty dashings of the waves of truth. It was his last, his supreme effort, for it is this kingdom in one of its manifestations which stands until the end of time.” —Stephen. N. Haskell, *The Story of Daniel the Prophet*, p. 203.

GOD’S FINAL OBJECTIVES

7. What was God’s vision and purpose for this world? Isa. 45:15-18

**8. How will God deal with the robbers of His people? 2 Thess. 2:8
i.e. Rev. 19:20; 18:5-8**

MEDITATION

∞ We marvel at and worship the God who with His long-range vision patiently waits for human passions and choices to produce their baleful conclusions.

“All men, whatever their position, whatever their religion, loyal or disloyal to God, wicked or righteous, are fitting themselves to do their work in the closing scenes of the day of the Lord. They will trample down each other as they act out their natural attributes and fulfill their purposes; but they will carry out the purpose of God.” —*Manuscript Releases Vol. 12*, p. 191.

Infiltration of Greece by Rome

Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: and he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding. Daniel 2:20, 21

OBJECTIVES

- To observe once again the property of God's character that in His foreknowledge He could predestine the activities of Rome.
- To behold the development of the Roman Empire.
- To see how the Jews were engaging with Rome in their ultimate demise.

GOD'S UNHURRIED INTERVENTIONS

- 1. From the previous lesson we learnt that Rome would ultimately meet its total desolation. What timing does God engage in the rise and fall of world events? 2 Pet. 3:7-9**

“Adam's transgression of God's law involved the entire future of the human family. All nature is confused; for God forbade the earth to carry out the purpose he had originally designed for it. Let there be no peace to the wicked, saith the Lord. The curse of God is upon all creation. Every year it makes itself more decidedly felt. But God is moving slowly in his great

purpose, for the benefit of the righteous. Soon the vials of his wrath will be poured out. If but ten righteous persons had been found in Sodom, God would not have devoted the city to destruction. Let us see that our hearts are right with God, and he will be our defense in the time of trouble.”
—*General Conference Bulletin*, Apr. 23, 1901.

**2. How then does the power of Rome arise in God’s providence?
Isa. 46:9-11**

“In the annals of human history, the growth of nations, the rise and fall of empires, appear as dependent on the will and prowess of man. The shaping of events seems, to a great degree, to be determined by his power, ambition, or caprice. But in the word of God the curtain is drawn aside, and we behold, behind, above, and through all the play and counterplay of human interests and power and passions, the agencies of the all-merciful One, silently, patiently working out the counsels of His own will.”
—*Education*, p. 173.

3. Because God works slowly, what should be the mindset of all true believers? Ps. 37:7-10

“Each unfolding of his providence, each token that his hand is in the work to move it forward with power, is designed to arouse us to greater zeal and earnestness, while we look for still more wonderful and glorious triumphs of the truth in the future.” —*The Review and Herald*, Jan. 20, 1885.

EARLY DEVELOPMENTS

4. Having learnt from Daniel 11:14 that the Romans came to defend the child king of Egypt, what significance is given by the introduction of the “robbers” of thy people? Verse 14 (last part)

““To establish the vision.” The Romans being more prominently than any other people the subject of Daniel's prophecy, their first interference in the affairs of these kingdoms is here referred to as being the establishment, or demonstration, of the truth of the vision which predicted the existence of such a power.” —Uriah Smith, *Daniel and The Revelation* (1897 edition), p. 257.

““Since every word is divinely given, there is a significance in the very introduction of what is about to become the mightiest kingdom of the earth, and at the same time the greatest enemy which the people of God ever had to meet.” —Stephen N. Haskell, *The Story of Daniel the Prophet*, p. 200.

5. What events transpired in Egypt, the king of the south, to understand Daniel 11:15?

“The tuition of the young king of Egypt was entrusted by the Roman Senate to M. Emilius Lepidus, who appointed Aristomenes, an old and experienced minister of that court, his guardian. His first act was to provide against the threatened invasion of the two confederated kings, Philip and Antiochus.

“To this end he despatched Scopas, a famous general of Aetolia, then in the service of the Egyptians, into his native country to raise reinforcements for the army. Having equipped an army, he marched into Palestine and Coele-Syria [...], and reduced all Judea into subjection to the authority of Egypt.” —Uriah Smith, *Ibid.*, pp. 257, 258.

6. How did the king of the north respond? Dan. 11:15

“Antiochus [...] took speedy steps for the recovery of Palestine and Coele-Syria from the hands of the Egyptians. Scopas was sent to oppose him. Near

the sources of the Jordan, the two armies met. Scopas was defeated, pursued to Sidon, and there closely besieged. Three of the ablest generals of Egypt, with their best forces, were sent to raise the siege, but without success. [...] Here was the taking of the most fenced cities by the king of the north; for Sidon was, both in its situation and its defenses, one of the strongest cities of those times. Here was the failure of the arms of the south to withstand, and the failure also of the people which the king of the south had chosen; namely, Scopas and his Aetolian forces.” —Uriah Smith, *Ibid.*, p. 258.

7. How did Rome deal with this mistreatment of its interests toward the king of the south? Daniel 11:16

“Although Egypt could not stand before Antiochus, the king of the north, Antiochus could not stand before the Romans, who now came against him. No kingdoms were longer able to resist this rising power. Syria was conquered, and added to the Roman empire, when Pompey, B.C.65, deprived Antiochus Asiaticus of his possessions, and reduced Syria to a Roman province.” —Uriah Smith, *Ibid.*, p. 258.

JEWISH INVOLVEMENT

8. Having seen how that Palestine was as “meat in the sandwich” of the wars between north and south; what did they do as they saw the Romans in conflict with Greece? Dan. 11:23

“The Jews, being grievously oppressed by the Syrian kings, sent an embassy to Rome, to solicit the aid of the Romans, and to join themselves in "a league of amity and confederacy with them." [...] The Romans listened to the request of the Jews, and granted them a decree.” —Uriah Smith, *Ibid.*, p. 271.

Rome Conquers Greece

This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men. Daniel 4:17

OBJECTIVES

- To study the final events by which Rome was given full control over the civilised world.
- To observe that God permits and directs affairs, even among the base and morally corrupt.
- To ponder His purpose in those revelations.

RISING STRENGTH OF ROME

- 1. What were the beginnings of Rome as a nation? Dan. 11:23. What were they doing in verse 14?**

“At this time the Romans were a small people, and began to work deceitfully, or with cunning, as the word signifies. And from this point they rose by a steady and rapid ascent to the height of power which they afterward attained.” —Uriah Smith, *Daniel and The Revelation* (1897 edition), p. 271.

“In verse 14 the voice of the fourth beast is heard; Rome placed itself on the side of the helpless king, and Antiochus found his ambition thwarted. The life of the Greek kingdom is spent. There were still many years of struggle, but it was a struggle for existence, not for added territory.” —Stephen N. Haskell, *The Story of Daniel the Prophet*, p. 197.

2. Having conquered the king of the north, what does Rome set out to do? Dan. 11:17 (1st part).

“Bishop Newton furnishes another reading for this verse, which seems more clearly to express the sense, as follows: "He shall also set his face to enter by force the whole kingdom." Verse 16 brought us down to the conquest of Syria and Judea by the Romans. Rome had previously conquered Macedon and Thrace. Egypt was now all that remained of the "whole kingdom" of Alexander, not brought into subjection to the Roman power, which power now set its face to enter by force into that country.” —Uriah Smith, *Ibid.*, p. 260.

PROTRACTED FALL OF EGYPT

3. What kind of activity orchestrated by God are we to observe in the fall of Egypt to Rome? Dan. 4:17 i.e. Dan. 11:17 (last part).

“Ptolemy Auletes died B.C.51. He left the crown and kingdom of Egypt to his eldest son and daughter, Ptolemy and Cleopatra. It was provided in his will that they should marry together, and reign jointly; and because they were young, they were placed under the guardianship of the Romans.”

“The passion which Caesar had conceived for Cleopatra, by whom he had one son is assigned by the historian as the sole reason of his undertaking so dangerous a campaign as the Egyptian war. This kept him much longer in Egypt than his affairs required, he spending whole nights in feasting and carousing with the dissolute queen.” —Uriah Smith, *Ibid.*, pp. 260, 264.

4. What base events are expressed in the words of Verse 17, “But she shall not stand on his side, neither be for him”? Dan. 11:18

“Cleopatra afterward joined herself to Antony, the enemy of Augustus Caesar, and exerted her whole power against Rome.” —Uriah Smith, *Ibid.*, p. 264.

5. While Julius Caesar was so active in seeking to conquer Egypt, and indeed, according to verse 18 would take the isles under Egyptian rule, what would happen to him, and was Egypt totally subdued? Dan. 11:19; 11:25

“Returning to Rome, the “fort of his own land,” he was made perpetual dictator; [...] And so [...], taking his seat in the senate chamber upon his throne of gold, to receive at the hands of that body the title of king, the dagger of treachery suddenly struck him to the heart. Cassius, Brutus, and other conspirators rushed upon him, and he fell, pierced with twenty-three wounds.”

“Mark Antony, Augustus Caesar, and Lepidus constituted the triumvirate which had sworn to avenge the death of Julius Caesar. [...] Antony was sent into Egypt on government business, but fell a victim to the arts and charms of Cleopatra [...] So strong was the passion he conceived for her, that he finally espoused the Egyptian interests, rejected his wife, Octavia, to please Cleopatra, bestowed province after province upon the latter to gratify her avarice, [...] and otherwise so affronted the Roman people that Augustus had no difficulty in leading them to engage heartily in a war [...] This war was ostensibly against Egypt and Cleopatra; but it was really against Antony, who now stood at the head of Egyptian affairs.” —Uriah Smith, *Ibid.*, pp. 264, 273.

Verse 25 “...but he shall not stand.”

GLORY OF THE KINGDOM

6. How is the ultimate victory over all the opponents of Rome addressed by Gabriel's revelations? Dan. 11:18 (1st part)

“Lepidus, one of the second triumvirates, soon died; Antony, a second member, enamored by Cleopatra, entrapped in the net of Egyptian darkness, cast himself upon his own sword and died; Octavius, an adopted son of Julius Cæsar, alone remained. [...] Furthermore, the provinces had so long been oppressed by the scheming ministers of the republic that they gladly welcomed a one-man power. [...] So, Octavius was proclaimed emperor of Rome by the unanimous vote of that same servile senate.

“Thus was Cæsar Augustus, the raiser of taxes, brought to the head of the fourth kingdom.

“After centuries of strife and turmoil, wars, bloodshed, and oppression, the world lay passive at the feet of the Roman emperor. One government encircled the Mediterranean; from the Atlantic to the Indian Ocean one power bore sway.” —Stephen N. Haskell, *Ibid.*, pp. 213, 214.

PURPOSE OF GOD

7. What is the spiritual value for us to study such detail in the history of the rise and fall of empires? Job 34:29

“Students very often read the story of nations, forgetting that they have before them a picture of their own lives. National history, rather than individual experience, is given in prophecy, because it is like a magnified view thrown on the canvas, revealing details that would be overlooked in the study of one man. It should be remembered that when principles are referred to, such as republicanism, Protestantism, monarchy, papacy, liberty,

or oppression, each has an application in man dealing with man, in church members' dealings with one another, and in nation with nation.” —Stephen N. Haskell, *Ibid.*, p. 209.

MEDITATION

- ☞ In the study of this lesson, what can you see in its picture that may be an exposé of your own life?

Remember that prophecy is not given to destroy hope, but that in beholding God’s orchestration in these human affairs we may behold the hope He extends to us as He does to all the characters on display before us. Note that Nebuchadnezzar learnt this and surrendered to God. (See Daniel chapter 4).

Permit the Day Star to arise in your heart.

The Jews Seal Their Future

Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God. Psalm 20:7

OBJECTIVES

- To receive clear direction not to make alliances with unbelievers.
- To consider the revelation of the deceptive nature of Rome.
- To observe the consequence of the Jews in their trust in the help of the Romans.

ALLIANCES FORBIDDEN

- 1. What direction did God give to the Hebrew nation in reference to their entering into any alliances with heathen nations? Ex. 23:32; Jer. 17:5; Isa. 31:1-3**

“Zerubbabel and his associates were familiar with these and many like scriptures; and in the recent captivity they had evidence after evidence of their fulfillment. And now, having repented of the evils that had brought upon them and their fathers the judgments foretold so plainly through Moses; having turned with all the heart to God, and renewed their covenant relationship with Him, they had been permitted to return to Judea, that they might restore that which had been destroyed. Should they, at the very beginning of their undertaking, enter into a covenant with idolaters?

““Thou shalt make no covenant with them,” God had said; and those who had recently rededicated themselves to the Lord at the altar set up before the ruins of His temple, realized that the line of demarcation between His people

and the world is ever to be kept unmistakably distinct. They refused to enter into alliance with those who, though familiar with the requirements of God's law, would not yield to its claims.” —*Prophets and Kings*, pp. 569, 570.

2. How relevant are these directives to all believers? 2 Cor. 6:14-18

“The principles set forth in Deuteronomy for the instruction of Israel are to be followed by God's people to the end of time. True prosperity is dependent on the continuance of our covenant relationship with God. Never can we afford to compromise principle by entering into alliance with those who do not fear Him.

“There is constant danger that professing Christians will come to think that in order to have influence with worldlings, they must to a certain extent conform to the world. But though such a course may appear to afford great advantages, it always ends in spiritual loss. Against every subtle influence that seeks entrance by means of flattering inducements from the enemies of truth, God's people must strictly guard. They are pilgrims and strangers in this world, traveling a path beset with danger. To the ingenious subterfuges and alluring inducements held out to tempt from allegiance, they must give no heed.” —*Prophets and Kings*, p. 570.

ROME'S DECEITFUL NATURE

3. What did Gabriel reveal to Daniel about Roman strategy? What was their deceitful activity? Dan. 11:23-24

“Rome was now to do what had not been done by the fathers or the fathers' fathers; namely, receive these acquisitions through peaceful means. The custom, before unheard of, was now inaugurated, of kings' leaving by legacy their kingdoms to the Romans. Rome came into possession of large provinces in this manner.

“And those who thus came under the dominion of Rome derived no small advantage therefrom. They were treated with kindness and leniency.... They were protected from their enemies and rested in peace and safety under the aegis of the Roman power.” —Uriah Smith, *Daniel and The Revelation* (1897 edition), p. 273.

4. How did the Jews fall for this strategy? Dan. 11:23 (1st part)

“In the year 161 B. C., the Jews were being continually attacked by the Syrians, with whose forces they were unable to cope. Being informed that the Romans were always ready to support weak nations against the oppression of kings, whose power gave them umbrage, it was thought necessary to make an alliance with that people. Ambassadors sent to Rome for this purpose were well received by the senate, and a decree was passed, by which the Jews were declared friends and allies of the Romans, and a defensive league was made with them.” —International Sabbath-School Quarterly, *The Prophecies of Daniel* (First Quarter 1904), p. 29.

JEWISH FATAL ALLIANCE

5. With this subtle characteristic at play, what did they reveal as to who was behind their rising to power? 2 Cor. 11:13-15

“The liberty granted to conquered nations was a myth. Rome was a republic only in name. It was as impossible for Rome to grant liberty to her dependencies as it would be for Satan himself to manifest the attributes of God.”

“Macedonia and Greece were in a state of turmoil, and Rome interfered. After conferences and wars, independence was proclaimed to all Greeks. This was one of the policy schemes by which the republic worked, but liberty lasted for only a brief space. [...] One hundred and fifty thousand

Greeks were sold as slaves, and the treasures taken paid all expenses contracted during the war. So high was the tribute exacted from subjected provinces that it relieved Roman citizens of all taxes for future wars.”
—Stephen N. Haskell, *The Story of Daniel the Prophet*, pp. 206, 205.

6. How would Rome have been affected if the Jews had been true to God and trusted Him instead? Gen. 12:2, 3; Deut. 28:9, 10

“Through all these struggles the nation whom God had chosen might have stood as a beacon on a hill, instead of being trampled upon by every army in its marches between Egypt and Syria.”

“In the days of Roman supremacy, as in the days of Solomon, it was the divine will that Israel should be the light of the world. They were intrusted with the sacred oracles of truth, and each nation was brought to them as to a fountain of living water. Had the Hebrew race been true to its appointed duty, the history of the whole world would read entirely different. Rome came to Jerusalem—came because sent of God, but the well was a cracked and leaky cistern, and the soul-thirst of the nation could not be quenched.”
—Stephen N. Haskell, *Ibid.*, pp. 196, 211.

7. What therefore did Gabriel reveal in God’s orchestration of events between Rome and the Jews? Dan. 11:16, 28

“As a result, Rome enslaved the Jews: the power of life which repels the enemy was *lacking*.”

“Pompey, called upon to decide between rulers of the Jews, entered Jerusalem, and, as in times past, the knowledge of the God of Israel was made known to the nation which was leading the world. Pompey, however, acted very differently from Alexander. He entered the city by force after a

siege of three months; the walls were demolished, and the Jews put under tribute to the Roman government. Rome now stood "in the glorious land which by his hand shall be consumed." This was in B. C. 63." —Stephen N. Haskell, *Ibid.*, pp. 211, 210.

FINAL DESTRUCTION

8. What was meant with the words “which by his hand shall be consumed” (Dan. 11:16)? Deut. 28:49-52, 64-66

“The Jews rejected Christ; and, according to the prophecy that all who would not hear that prophet should be cut off, they were destroyed out of their own land, and scattered to every nation under heaven. Jerusalem fell in A.D. 70.” —Uriah Smith, *Ibid.*, p. 278.

MEDITATION

- ☞ Remember that we are studying events that were declared long before they took place. Let us continue to marvel over God’s unfailing principles of character. (See Isaiah 46 i.e. *Conflict and Courage*, p. 250 par. 3.)

“In the annals of human history, the growth of nations, the rise and fall of empires, appear as if dependent on the will and prowess of man; the shaping of events seems, to a great degree, to be determined by his power, ambition, or caprice. But in the word of God the curtain is drawn aside, and we behold, above, behind, and through all the play and counterplay of human interest and power and passions, the agencies of the All-merciful One, silently, patiently working out the counsels of His own will.” —*Conflict and Courage*, p. 250.

The Birth and Death of Jesus

*But I am the LORD thy God, that divided the sea, whose waves roared:
The LORD of hosts is his name. Isaiah 51:15*

OBJECTIVES

- To consider the perfect timing of Christ's birth.
- To behold the visible orchestration of Christ upon the nations by His birth, death, and resurrection.
- To see that the future of nations and individuals is determined by their response to Jesus Christ.

DIVINE ORCHESTRATION FOR CHRIST'S BIRTH

1. What national circumstances did Michael and Gabriel orchestrate for the arrival of Michael on earth? Dan. 11:20 (1st part)

“And he [Augustus Caesar] stood up "in the glory of the kingdom." Rome reached in his days the pinnacle of its greatness and power. The "Augustan Age" is an expression everywhere used to denote the golden age of Roman history. Rome never saw a brighter hour. Peace was promoted, justice maintained, luxury curbed, discipline established, and learning encouraged. In his reign, the temple of Janus was for the third time shut since the foundation of Rome, signifying that all the world was at peace; and at this auspicious hour our Lord was born in Bethlehem of Judea.” —Uriah Smith, *Daniel and The Revelation* (1897 edition), p. 266.

“When the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son.” Providence had directed the movements of nations, and the tide of human impulse and influence, until the world was ripe for the coming of the Deliverer. The nations were united under one government. One language was widely spoken, and was everywhere recognized as the language of literature. From all lands the Jews of the dispersion gathered to Jerusalem to the annual feasts. As these returned to the places of their sojourn, they could spread throughout the world the tidings of the Messiah's coming.”

—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 32.

2. What significance do the words “raiser of taxes” have to stage the birth of Christ in Bethlehem to fulfill the prophecy of Micah 5:2? Luke 2:1-7

“As in old time Cyrus was called to the throne of the world's empire that he might set free the captives of the Lord, so Cæsar Augustus is made the agent for the fulfillment of God's purpose in bringing the mother of Jesus to Bethlehem. She is of the lineage of David, and the Son of David must be born in David's city.” —Stephen N. Haskell, *The Story of Daniel the Prophet*, p. 215.

3. How was Satan caught out in his plan to sustain his hold on this planet through Rome? Job 1:6, 7; John 16:11

“Satan has but one plan—that is the development of sin; God has but one—the unfolding of truth and love. All history is an object lesson, showing how God thwarts the thousand ways by which the devil's plans are unfolding, and national history is but individual experience on a large scale.” —Stephen N. Haskell, *Ibid.*, p. 209.

“Satan exulted and rested in the hope that at last victory was his. But the moment of his quiet resting was the calm preceding his greatest struggles.

“The very condition which caused Satan to exult were the conditions most favorable to Christ when he came to tabernacle among men.” —Stephen N. Haskell, *Ibid.*, p. 214.

CHRIST’S IMPACT ON NATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS

4. How thoroughly had Satan engulfed the world in darkness to necessitate Christ’s advent? John 1:4, 5, 10

“With his own evil characteristics he sought to invest the loving Creator. Thus he deceived angels. Thus he deceived men. He led them to doubt the word of God, and to distrust His goodness. Because God is a God of justice and terrible majesty, Satan caused them to look upon Him as severe and unforgiving. Thus he drew men to join him in rebellion against God, and the night of woe settled down upon the world.

“The earth was dark through misapprehension of God. That the gloomy shadows might be lightened, that the world might be brought back to God, Satan's deceptive power was to be broken. This could not be done by force. [...] Only He who knew the height and depth of the love of God could make it known. Upon the world's dark night the Sun of Righteousness must rise, "with healing in His wings." Malachi 4:2.” —*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 21, 22.

5. When Christ was born, how would His presence on earth continue to orchestrate issues on earth as He had done behind the scenes? Luke 2:34; Isa. 52:15; John 12:31, 32

“The Son of God came to this earth to reveal the character of the Father to men, that they might learn to worship Him in spirit and in truth. He came to

sow the world with truth. He held the keys of all the treasures of wisdom, and was able to open doors to science, and to reveal undiscovered stores of knowledge, were it essential to salvation. The Light that lighteth every man that cometh into the world, every phase of truth was evident to Him.”
—*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 28.

ROMANS AND JEWISH DARKNESS

6. Who was the emperor when Christ was baptised and entered His ministry, and what was revealed by Gabriel regarding him? Luke 3:1-3; Dan. 11:20, 21

“Christ's ministry was during the reign of Tiberius, and while that vile person worked, planned, mistrusted, and killed, the Man of God went about all the towns of Palestine, healing the broken-hearted, and dispensing light to all who would accept. Angels watched him, Gabriel attended him, and in times of special danger, shielded him from the enemy who tracked him incessantly.” —Stephen N. Haskell, *Ibid.*, p. 216.

“It is recorded that as Augustus was about to nominate his successor, his wife, Livia, besought him to nominate Tiberius (her son by a former husband); but the emperor said, "Your son is too vile to wear the purple of Rome;"” —Uriah Smith, *Ibid.*, p. 266.

7. How was the darkness that Christ ministered under during Tiberius' reign concluded? Dan. 11:22

“Acting the hypocrite to the last, [Tiberius] disguised his increasing debility as much as he was able, even affecting to join in the sports and exercises of the soldiers of his guard. At length, leaving his favourite island, the scene of the most disgusting debaucheries, he stopped at a country house near the

promontory of Micenum, where, on the 16th of March, 37, he sunk into a lethargy, in which he appeared dead; and Caligula was preparing with a numerous escort to take possession of the empire, when his sudden revival threw them into consternation. At this critical instant, Macro, the pretorian prefect, caused him to be *suffocated with pillows*. Thus expired the emperor Tiberius [...].” —Uriah Smith, *Ibid.*, p. 269.

“Finally they nailed [Christ] to the cross; the Jews were responsible for it, but the Roman law upheld them in the act; and had it not been done by his own people, the Romans would have done it; for they had reached a condition when the life of man was but lightly esteemed, and the spiritual kingdom which Christ came to set up could never have been understood by the reigning monarch. The officers of Rome nailed the Son of God to the cross.” —Stephen N. Haskell, *Ibid.*, p. 216.

PRINCE OF THE COVENANT

8. What saving words are used to describe the redeeming death of Jesus, and what victory did this include against Satan? Dan. 11:22 (last phrase); Isa. 55:1-3

“Christ desired that the ideas of His disciples might be pure and true in every specification. They must understand as far as possible in regard to the cup of suffering that had been apportioned to Him. He showed them that the awful conflict which they could not yet comprehend was the fulfillment of the covenant made before the foundation of the world was laid. Christ must die, as every transgressor of the law must die if he continues in sin. All this was to be, but it was not to end in defeat, but in glorious, eternal victory. Jesus told them that every effort must be made to save the world from sin. His followers must live as He lived, and work as He worked, with intense, persevering effort.” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 799.

“By causing the death of the Sovereign of heaven, Satan defeated his own purposes. The death of the Son of God made the death of Satan unavoidable. Satan was allowed to go on until his administration was laid open before the worlds unfallen and before the heavenly universe. By

shedding the blood of the Son of God, he uprooted himself [from sympathy], and was seen by all to be a liar, a thief, and a murderer.”
—*Christ Triumphant*, p. 14.

MEDITATION

- ☞ Reflecting on Daniel 10:21 and knowing that it was Gabriel who approached Mary and Joseph regarding the birth of Jesus, look at the way he came to Christ when the cup trembled in His hand.
Luke 22:41-43

“In the supreme crisis, when heart and soul are breaking under the load of sin, Gabriel is sent to strengthen the divine sufferer, and brace Him to tread His bloodstained path. And while the angel supports His fainting form, Christ takes the bitter cup, and consents to drink its contents.”—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 5*, p. 1123.

Sharpening Comprehension Skills

Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures... Luke 24:45

OBJECTIVES

- To realise our need of gaining understanding to read Scripture aright.
- To detect the skill addressed by the angel in his words to Daniel.
- To apply the skill to gain correct conclusions from Daniel 11.

GAINING UNDERSTANDING

1. Does Jesus have to help us to gain a correct understanding from the Scriptures as He did the apostles? Luke 24:44, 45

“The sayings of Christ are to be valued, not merely in accordance with the measure of the understanding of those who hear; they are to be considered in the important bearing that Christ Himself attaches to them. He took the old truths, of which He Himself was the originator, and placed them before His hearers in heaven’s own light. How different was their representation. What a flood of meaning and brightness and spirituality was brought in by their explanation.” —*Christ Triumphant*, p. 299.

2. Is our need to understand the Scriptures from God’s viewpoint expressed by Inspiration? 2 Peter 1:20, 21; Isa. 55:8, 9

“The instruction that the Lord has given concerning His work points out the right way. God's plans and God's thoughts are as much higher than man's plans and man's thoughts as the heavens are higher than the earth. God's voice is to be heard; His wisdom is to guide. He has outlined His plan in His word and in the testimonies that He has sent to His people. That work only which is carried on in accordance with the principles of His word will stand fast forever.” —*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 8, p. 235.*

GOD-GIVEN SKILL

3. How did the angel address Daniel regarding his need to understand correctly the visions presented? Dan. 9:21, 22

“As Daniel's prayer is going forth, the angel Gabriel comes sweeping down from the heavenly courts to tell him that his petitions are heard and answered. This mighty angel has been commissioned to give him skill and understanding—to open before him the mysteries of future ages. Thus, while earnestly seeking to know and understand the truth, Daniel was brought into communion with Heaven's delegated messenger.” —*Counsels for the Church, p. 54.*

4. In the reading of the works of Daniel, do we need the skill to read and understand correctly? Hab. 2:2-4

“Read the book of Daniel. Call up, point by point, the history of the kingdoms there represented. Behold statesmen, councils, powerful armies, and see how God wrought to abase pride and lay human glory in the dust. God alone is represented as great. In the vision of the prophet He is seen casting down one mighty ruler and setting up another. He is revealed as the monarch of the universe, about to set up His everlasting kingdom—the Ancient of days, the living God, the Source of all wisdom, the Ruler of the present, the Revealer of the future. Read and understand how poor, how frail, how short-lived, how erring, how guilty, are mortals. . . .

“The light that Daniel received direct from God was given especially for these last days. The visions he saw by the banks of the Ulai and the Hiddekel, the great rivers of Shinar, are now in process of fulfillment, and all the events foretold will soon have come to pass.” —*Christ Triumphant*, p. 335.

SKILL FOR DANIEL 11

- 5. Does the angel clearly reveal that the vision of Daniel 11 is truth spelt out uninhibited by the symbolism of the previous visions?
Dan. 10:21; 11:2; Ezek. 12:27, 28**

“The angel, after stating that he stood, in the first year of Darius, to confirm and strengthen him, turns his attention to the future. Three kings shall yet stand up in Persia.”—Uriah Smith, *Daniel and the Revelation* (1897 edition), p. 247.

- 6. How does the angel describe the transition of the kings of the Medo-Persian empire to the rising of the Grecian empire?
Dan. 11:2, 3**

“The facts stated in these verses plainly point to Alexander, and the division of his empire. Xerxes was the last Persian king who invaded

Grecia; and the prophecy passes over the nine successors of Xerxes in the Persian empire, and next introduces Alexander the Great. Having overthrown the Persian empire, Alexander "became absolute lord of that empire, in the utmost extent in which it was ever possessed by any of the Persian kings." —Uriah Smith, *Ibid.*, p. 248.

7. In noting the language of the change of a king and the change of an empire, as in question six, can this language be recognised again as the arrival of a new kingdom and king in Daniel 11:15, 16?

“Although Egypt could not stand before Antiochus, the king of the north, Antiochus could not stand before the Romans, who now came against him. No kingdoms were longer able to resist this rising power. Syria was conquered, and added to the Roman empire, when Pompey, B.C.65, deprived Antiochus Asiaticus of his possessions, and reduced Syria to a Roman province.” —Uriah Smith, *Ibid.*, p. 258.

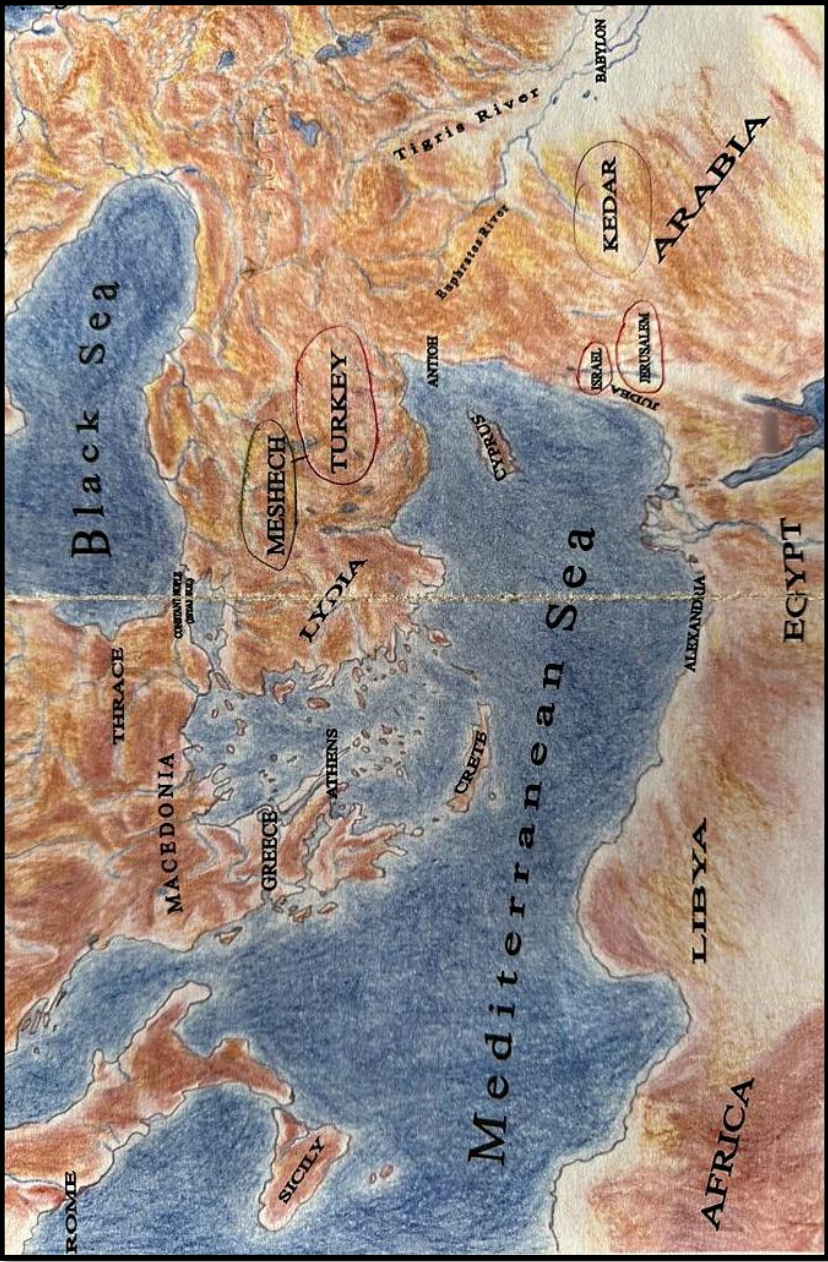
8. As the same language describing the rising of another king and kingdom, referred to in questions 6 and 7, is repeated in Daniel 11:20 with the term “stand up” and “according to his will” (verse 16), do we recognise the arrival of a new kingdom in Daniel 11:36?

“The king here introduced [Dan. 11:36] cannot denote the same power which was last noticed; namely, the papal power; for the specifications will not hold good if applied to that power.” —Uriah Smith, *Ibid.*, p. 292.

MEDITATION

SECTION 2

**MICHAEL'S
CLOSING WORK**



ROME

SICILY

MACEDONIA

THRACE

GREECE

ATHENS

LYDIA

MESHECH

TURKEY

CRETE

SYRIA

JORDAN

JERUSALEM

KEDAR

ARABIA

LIBYA

EGYPT

ALEXANDRIA

ANTIOH

Euphrates River

Tigris River

BABYLON

Black Sea

Mediterranean Sea

Introduction

“**T**HAT LIGHT followed the Jews for hundreds of years, but in the days preceding the Saviour's birth there were but a few souls that bound earth and heaven together. With the advent of Christ a flood of light filled the earth, but again the darkness almost covered the face of the sun. The streams of light were numerous as the Christians scattered throughout the earth, but gradually as the prophet followed these in vision, they grew dim and dimmer. In the days of Luther and the Reformers the stream widened, and again the light flashed like streaks of lightning, piercing the darkness. But days of clear shining were comparatively few.

“The close of the prophetic period of 2300 days brought men to important changes in the heavenly sanctuary. Through all time Christ had pleaded for his people, and whether they were many or few, his love was always the same. Finally the great High Priest entered within the holy of holies. To Daniel the scene of the investigative judgment had been revealed. He had seen the Son approach the Ancient of Days; the books of heaven were opened and the records examined. Over and over again the nail-pierced hands had been raised before the great Judge, as the name of some repentant soul was read, and the Intercessor had cried, "Pardon, Father! My blood! My blood," and the scarred character, the marred record, was covered by the life of the Son of man. Daniel had seen this. He knew that God's people must pass in review before the Judge of worlds, but at the end of the last vision there is another scene presented.

“While men are watching the movements of nations; while they cry, Peace and safety, and yet prepare for war, the angel of God is seen by Daniel to pass through the earth, and place a seal upon the foreheads of those to whom these heavenly rays extend. So long as the angel finds any of these faithful ones, Christ still

intercedes, but at last the messenger wings his way toward heaven. Throughout the vast kingdom of Jehovah echoes the sound, "It is done," and Christ from the inner sanctuary rises and proclaims, "It is done." He lays aside his priestly garments, and prepares to set in order his kingdom.

“His mediatorial work is over; the door from whence has streamed those rays of light and mercy is closed forever. Those who have been sealed must now stand wholly by faith, clinging to God alone during a "time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation."

“Daniel had watched men pass through trials. He had seen Israel tried, and men in all ages who were true to God tested on the point of faith, but in all previous instances the test had been lightened by a mediator. Now there is no intercessor, and man stands alone. Mercy is no longer sheltering him. It is another night in Gethsemane, another day of Calvary.” —Stephen N. Haskell, *The Story of Daniel the Prophet*, pp. 252, 253.

The Day Star's Ongoing Effect

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. Acts 1:8

OBJECTIVES

- To research how the life, death, and resurrection impacted the Jews and all Judea.
- To see how this impacted national events in the Roman Empire.
- To behold the territory to which the message of the story of Christ spread.

GOSPEL IMPACT

- 1. Now that Michael had manifested Himself in the person of Jesus Christ, what legacy did He leave behind and how directly did this affect His nation? John 20:21, 22; Acts 2:1-4, 41**

“The seed had been sown by the greatest Teacher the world had ever known. For three and a half years the Son of God had sojourned in the land of Judea, proclaiming the message of the gospel of truth and working with mighty signs and wonders. The seed had been sown, and after His ascension the great ingathering took place. More were converted by one sermon on the day of Pentecost than were converted during all the years of Christ's ministry.” —*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 6, p. 1055.*

“The Jewish leaders had supposed that the work of Christ would end with His death; but, instead of this, they witnessed the marvelous scenes of the Day of Pentecost. They heard the disciples, endowed with a power and energy hitherto unknown, preaching Christ, their words confirmed by signs and wonders. In Jerusalem, the stronghold of Judaism, thousands openly declared their faith in Jesus of Nazareth as the Messiah.” —*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 44.

2. What effect did this have on the religious and political leaders of Judea? Acts 5:27-33; 4:13

“Following the death of Stephen, the Jewish leaders sought by every means possible to check the spread of the gospel. In the most positive terms the members of the Sanhedrin forbade the disciples to preach in the name of Jesus. But every effort to put down the new religion seemed only to increase its strength, till it threatened to destroy the rites of the temple and the customs of ages.” —*The Review and Herald*, March 16, 1911.

IMPACT ON ROME

3. How does Scripture reveal that even the heathen Romans were affected by Christ and the Spirit of God? Matt. 27:54; Acts 10:1-5, 33

“The Jewish leaders and even the Roman authorities found it harder to deal with a dead Christ than with a living Christ.” —*Christ Triumphant*, p. 281.

4. As with the Jewish authorities, how did the Roman authorities respond to this Prince of the Covenant? Dan. 11:28. What did this

**demonstrate regarding Christ's influence upon the world?
2 Cor. 2:15, 16 i.e. Luke 2:34**

“The fallen world is the battlefield for the greatest conflict the heavenly universe and earthly powers have ever witnessed. It was appointed as a theater on which would be fought out the grand struggle between good and evil, between heaven and hell. Every human being acts a part in this conflict. No one can stand on neutral ground. Men must either accept or reject the world's Redeemer. All are witnesses, either for or against Christ. Christ calls upon those who stand under His banner to engage in the conflict with Him as faithful soldiers, that they may inherit the crown of life.” —*God's Amazing Grace*, p. 36.

5. As humanity reacts to the visible Christ, how does reception or rejection of Him unfold in history? 2 Cor. 13:8

“In every age God's chosen messengers have been reviled and persecuted, yet through their affliction the knowledge of God has been spread abroad. Every disciple of Christ is to step into the ranks and carry forward the same work, knowing that its foes can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth.”

“How often this result has been seen in the history of God's messengers! When the noble and eloquent Stephen was stoned to death at the instigation of the Sanhedrin council, there was no loss to the cause of the gospel. The light of heaven that glorified his face, the divine compassion breathed in his dying prayer, were as a sharp arrow of conviction to the bigoted Sanhedrist who stood by, and Saul, the persecuting Pharisee, became a chosen vessel to bear the name of Christ before Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel.” —*Reflecting Christ*, p. 366.

6. How did the opposition of the Jews to the Christians affect the spread of Christianity throughout the Roman Empire? What was exclaimed regarding this? Acts 17:6

“Persecution in Jerusalem scattered the believers, and then they went everywhere preaching the salvation of God. Quietly, yet steadily, the life-giving current of the stream of Christianity penetrated to the remotest corners of the vast Roman Empire.”

“As the truth spread, it was the growth of an empire, a spiritual kingdom within the confines of earth’s strongest monarchy.” —Stephen N. Haskell, *The Story of Daniel the Prophet*, p. 218.

INTERNAL ROMAN CONSEQUENCES

7. Did Rome feel threatened by this spread, and how did it respond? Matt. 24:9

“The history of the early church testified to the fulfillment of the Saviour’s words. The powers of earth and hell arrayed themselves against Christ in the person of His followers. Paganism foresaw that should the gospel triumph, her temples and altars would be swept away; therefore she summoned her forces to destroy Christianity. The fires of persecution were kindled. Christians were stripped of their possessions and driven from their homes. They “endured a great fight of afflictions.” Hebrews 10:32. They “had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment.” Hebrews 11:36. Great numbers sealed their testimony with their blood. Noble and slave, rich and poor, learned and ignorant, were alike slain without mercy.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 39.

8. What did Gabriel forecast in Daniel 11 which Jesus took up in His words to the disciples? Dan. 11:28, 29 i.e. Matt. 24:6, 7

“Rome then lost its prestige. The Western division was exposed to the incursions of foreign enemies.” —Uriah Smith, *Daniel and The Revelation* (1897 edition), p. 280.

“The close of the third century of the Christian era found the government of Rome greatly weakened. [...] Barbarian hordes pressed the empire on all sides, and the downfall of Rome was imminent.” —Stephen N. Haskell, *Ibid.*, p. 224.

MEDITATION

- ☞ How interesting to see that those who react negatively to the Lord Jesus and His kingdom, and fight against it, ultimately fall into disarray and demise.

The Rise of Christian Perversion

Beloved, 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

OBJECTIVES

- To observe the rise of false doctrines in the Christian church.
- To see how these errors provided the source of antagonists in the Roman Empire.
- To show how Satan uses Christianity in error to thwart God's plans to develop His kingdom on earth.

GROUNDSWELL OF ERROR

1. How do the apostles forecast the introduction of error after their passing from the scene? Acts 20:29-31; 1 John 4:1-3; 2 Thess. 2:7

“During the lives of the apostles the church remained comparatively pure. But "toward the latter end of the second century most of the churches assumed a new form; the first simplicity disappeared, and insensibly, as the old disciples retired to their graves, their children, along with new converts, . . . came forward and new-modeled the cause.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 384.

2. How does Gabriel identify this in his revelations to Daniel, and how did it pan out in the events of history? Dan. 11:30 (last part)

“To secure converts, the exalted standard of the Christian faith was lowered, and as the result "a pagan flood, flowing into the church, carried with it its customs, practices, and idols." --Gavazzi, Lectures, page 278. As the Christian religion secured the favor and support of secular rulers, it was nominally accepted by multitudes; but while in appearance Christians, many "remained in substance pagans, especially worshipping in secret their idols."” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 384.

3. What was one such false doctrine that arose, and what impact did it have on certain secular powers? John 1:1; Phi. 2:6, 7

“[Jesus] was God while upon earth, but He divested Himself of the form of God,” —*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 5*, p. 1126.

“Arius, parish priest of the ancient and influential church of Alexandria, sprung his doctrine upon the world, [...] Arius maintained "that the Son was totally and essentially distinct from the Father; that he was the first and noblest of those beings whom the Father had created out of nothing, the instrument by whose subordinate operation the Almighty Father formed the universe, and therefore inferior to the Father both in nature and dignity."”

““The whole of the vast Gothic population which descended on the Roman empire, so far as it was Christian at all, held to the faith of the Alexandrian heretic. [...] The first conqueror of Rome, Aleric, and the first conqueror of Africa, Genseric, were Arians. Theodoric the great king of Italy [...] was an Arian.” —Uriah Smith, *Daniel and The Revelation* (1897 edition), pp. 144, 147.

PAPAL GROUNDSWELL

4. What other error developed in Christendom that paved the way for the formation of the papacy? Matt. 23:8, 9

“The first pastors or bishops of Rome enjoyed a respect proportionate to the rank of the city in which they resided; and for the first few centuries of the Christian era, Rome was the largest, richest, and most powerful city in the world. [...] “If Rome is the queen of cities, why should not her pastors be the king of bishops?” was the reasoning those Roman pastors adopted.”

—Uriah Smith, *Ibid.*, p. 142.

5. As Satan had hoped to control the world through pagan Rome but was thwarted by Christ, how did he develop his control in a metamorphosis of Rome? 2 Thess. 2:3, 4; Rev. 17:8

“Little by little, at first in stealth and silence, and then more openly as it increased in strength and gained control of the minds of men, “the mystery of iniquity” carried forward its deceptive and blasphemous work. Almost imperceptibly the customs of heathenism found their way into the Christian church. [...] But as persecution ceased, and Christianity entered the courts and palaces of kings, she laid aside the humble simplicity of Christ and His apostles for the pomp and pride of pagan priests and rulers; [...] The nominal conversion of Constantine, in the early part of the fourth century, caused great rejoicing; and the world, cloaked with a form of righteousness, walked into the church. [...] Paganism, while appearing to be vanquished, became the conqueror.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 49.

SATAN'S FINAL SUCCESS

6. How was Gabriel's forecast of these very events described and verified by the apostle John in Revelation? Dan. 11:30 (last part); Rev. 13:2

““Indignation against the covenant;” that is, the Holy Scriptures, the book of the covenant. A revolution of this nature was accomplished in Rome. The Heruli, Goths, and Vandals, who conquered Rome, embraced the Arian faith, and became enemies of the Catholic Church. It was especially for the purpose of exterminating this heresy that Justinian decreed the pope to be the head of the church and the corrector of heretics. The Bible soon came to be regarded as a dangerous book that should not be read by the common people, but all questions in dispute were to be submitted to the pope. Thus was indignity heaped upon God's word. And the emperors of Rome, the eastern division of which still continued, had intelligence, or connived with the Church of Rome, which had forsaken the covenant, and constituted the great apostasy, for the purpose of putting down "heresy.””

—Uriah Smith, *Ibid.*, p. 281.

7. How completely did Satan succeed to establish himself as prince of this world to all appearances? Rev. 13:8

“This compromise between paganism and Christianity resulted in the development of "the man of sin" foretold in prophecy as opposing and exalting himself above God. That gigantic system of false religion is a masterpiece of Satan's power--a monument of his efforts to seat himself upon the throne to rule the earth according to his will.”

“It is one of the leading doctrines of Romanism that the pope is the visible head of the universal church of Christ, invested with supreme authority over

bishops and pastors in all parts of the world. More than this, the pope has been given the very titles of Deity. He has been styled "Lord God the Pope", and has been declared infallible. He demands the homage of all men. The same claim urged by Satan in the wilderness of temptation is still urged by him through the Church of Rome, and vast numbers are ready to yield him homage." —*The Great Controversy*, p. 50.

MEDITATION

☞ What are the dangers for us today in the light of the subtle manner in which Satan managed to infiltrate the early Christian world?

2 Cor. 11:13-15; Heb. 3:13.

“We are living in a time when every wind of doctrine is blowing, and when those who think they stand are liable to fall. We are living in a time when Satan is striving to implant seeds of skepticism and infidelity in every mind. We are living in a time when error is taught so insidiously that the faith of many is being rapidly undermined.” —*The Canadian Union Messenger*, Sept. 3, 1907.

Desolations of Pagan Rome

And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. Matthew 24:6

OBJECTIVES

- To see that when a nation, such as Rome, desolates another nation, such as Judea, it will also be desolated.
- To behold once again God's ability to predestine events by His divine foreknowledge.
- To watch as an empire melts into decay and changes its nature.

THE NATURE OF PAGANISM

1. What was the cry of God's people under pagan nations?

Ps. 74:10, 3 i.e. verses 1-10

2. How did Gabriel address the removal of pagan desolations?

Dan. 11:31 i.e. Dan. 8:13

“...*sacrifice* is a word erroneously supplied; [...] it should be *desolation*; and [...] the expression denotes a desolating power, of which the abomination of desolation is but a counterpart, and to which it succeeds in

point of time. The "daily" desolation was paganism, the "abomination of desolation" is the papacy."

"How was the daily, or paganism, taken away? As this is spoken of in connection with the placing or setting up of the abomination of desolation, or the papacy, it must denote [...] such an eradication of paganism from all the elements of the empire, that the way would be all open for the papal abomination to arise and assert its arrogant claims." —Uriah Smith, *Daniel and The Revelation* (1897 edition), pp. 282, 283.

ROMAN EMPIRE DEMISE

3. How will God deal with desolating nations who have desolated Judea (Jer. 30:16.), and in His foreknowledge regarding the Roman Empire? How long was it given to do its desolations? Dan. 11:24 (last part); compare verse 29

"...the victory of Octavius over Antony at Actium [...] placed him as sole ruler on the Roman throne." —Stephen N. Haskell, *The Story of Daniel the Prophet*, p. 227.

"This battle doubtless marks the commencement of the "time" mentioned in verse 24. [...] From B.C. 31, a prophetic time, or 360 years, would bring us to A.D. 330. And it hence becomes a noteworthy fact that the seat of the empire was removed from Rome to Constantinople by Constantine the Great in that very year." —Uriah Smith, *Ibid.*, p. 275.

4. How did that move to Constantinople indicate the unfolding of the events of Daniel 11:29-31?

"The removal of the seat of empire to Constantinople was the signal for the downfall of the empire." —Uriah Smith, *Ibid.*, p. 280.

BARBARIC WARS

5. As Daniel 11:29 expressed the weakened condition of the Roman Empire, how did verse 30 (1st part) introduce defeating warfare?

“The close of the third century of the Christian era found the government of Rome greatly weakened. The evils of the empire, its oppression and cruelty, made it almost impossible for the emperors to control affairs. [...] Barbarian hordes pressed the empire on all sides, and the downfall of Rome was imminent.” —Stephen N. Haskell, *Ibid.*, p. 224.

“What were the ships of Chittim that came against this power, and when was this movement made? What country or power is meant by Chittim? [...] Kitto gives the same locality to Chittim; namely, the coast and islands of the Mediterranean; and the mind is carried by the testimony of Jerome to a definite and celebrated city situated in that land; that is, Carthage.

“Was ever a naval warfare, with Carthage as a base of operations, waged against the Roman Empire? We have but to think of the terrible onslaught of the Vandals upon Rome under the fierce Genseric [...] Sallying every spring from the port of Carthage at the head of his numerous and well-disciplined naval forces, he spread consternation through all the maritime provinces of the empire. [...] The years A.D. 428-468 mark the career of Genseric.” —Uriah Smith, *Ibid.*, p. 281.

6. With the Barbarian Vandals from the south, where else did Barbarian hordes come from and ultimately obliterate paganism from the Empire? Dan. 11:31

“Following in due course of time, as the next remarkable revolution, came the irruptions of the barbarians of the North...”

“Rome was sacked by the Goths and Vandals, and the imperial power of the West ceased through the conquest of Rome by Odoacer.” —Uriah Smith, *Ibid.*, pp. 281, 282.

“The last contest with paganism was in 508 when the Britons accepted Christianity; the "daily" spoken of in Daniel had been taken away. By 538 the way was clear for the papacy to sit enthroned in Rome. [...] The new religion—Christianity—we have seen mingled with paganism, which it crushed, and gave birth to the papacy.” —Stephen N. Haskell, *Ibid.*, p. 233.

PREDESTINATION

7. Having so vividly predicted the details of the rise and demise of Rome, what does this reveal of the predestination qualities of God? Rom. 8:29; 9:10-18

“In the council of heaven, provision was made that men, though transgressors, should not perish in their disobedience, but, through faith in Christ as their substitute and surety, might become the elect of God, predestinated unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself according to the good pleasure of His will. God wills that all men should be saved; for ample provision has been made, in giving His only-begotten Son to pay man's ransom. Those who perish will perish because they refuse to be adopted as children of God through Christ Jesus.” (Signs of the Times Jan. 2, 1893) —*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 6*, p. 1114.

MEDITATION

- ☞ Consider the awesome God we worship, who demonstrates that He knows all things before they transpire. Knowing this, does He not know of you, dear student? Let us be comforted by Psalm 139:1-6.

Papal Establishment and Desolations

For thus saith the Lord of hosts, After the glory hath he sent me unto the nations which spoiled you: for he that toucheth you toucheth the apple of his eye. Zechariah 2:8

OBJECTIVES

- To reflect on the previous information on the rise of the papacy.
- To learn how human interpretations and opinions become despotic elements of persecution.
- To behold the papal oppressions as generated by Satan who would desolate all true believers.

HUMAN REASONING

- 1. How were papal ideologies born in the early Christian church?**
2 Cor. 10:3-5; Gal. 6:8

“What was the origin of the great apostasy? How did the church first depart from the simplicity of the gospel? By conforming to the practices of paganism, to facilitate the acceptance of Christianity by the heathen.”
—*The Great Controversy*, p. 384.

- 2. What weakness of the natural heart are all Christians vulnerable to fall for and thus fall for deceptions as did the early church?**
Jer. 17:9, 10

“The very beginning of the evil was a neglect of watchfulness and secret prayer, then came a neglect of other religious duties, and thus the way was opened for all the sins that followed. Every Christian will be assailed by the allurements of the world, the clamors of the carnal nature, and the direct temptations of Satan. No one is safe. No matter what our experience has been, no matter how high our station, we need to watch and pray continually. We must be daily controlled by the Spirit of God, or we are controlled by Satan.” —*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 5*, p. 102.

ESTABLISHING THE ABOMINATION

3. Meeting the heresy of Arianism, what plausible conclusions were drawn in the church? 1 Tim. 4:1

“Arius [...] sprung his doctrine upon the world, occasioning so fierce a controversy in the Christian church that a general council was called at Nicaea, by the emperor Constantine, A.D.325, to consider and adjust it.”

“It was especially for the purpose of exterminating this heresy that Justinian decreed the pope to be the head of the church and the corrector of heretics.”
—Uriah Smith, *Daniel and The Revelation* (1897 edition), pp. 144, 281.

4. Having finally established the papal abominations and papal domination shown in the last lesson, how did these abominations become destructive? Ps. 37:32

“It required a desperate struggle for those who would be faithful to stand firm against the deceptions and abominations which were disguised in sacerdotal garments and introduced into the church. The Bible was not

accepted as the standard of faith. The doctrine of religious freedom was termed heresy, and its upholders were hated and proscribed.”

“The early Christians were indeed a peculiar people. Their blameless deportment and unswerving faith were a continual reproof that disturbed the sinner's peace. [...] they were a terror to evildoers wherever their character and doctrines were known. Therefore they were hated by the wicked, [...] For the same reason that Cain slew Abel, did those who sought to throw off the restraint of the Holy Spirit, put to death God's people.” —*The Great Controversy*, pp. 45, 46.

GABRIEL'S DESCRIPTION

5. Having described the placement of the abomination that maketh desolate in Daniel 11:31, what did he say this papal abomination would do? Dan. 11:32

“Those that forsake the covenant, the Holy Scriptures, and think more of the decrees of popes and the decisions of councils than they do of the word of God, - these shall he, the pope, corrupt by flatteries; that is, lead them on in their partisan zeal for himself by the bestowment of wealth, position, and honors.

“At the same time a people shall exist who know their God; and these shall be strong and do exploits. [...] Prominent among these stand the Waldenses, Albigenses, Huguenots, etc.” —Uriah Smith, *Ibid.*, p. 289.

6. How were these strong people, who did exploits in keeping pure religion alive in the earth through the Dark Ages, treated? Dan. 11:33

“The long period of papal persecution against those who were struggling to maintain the truth and instruct their fellow men in ways of righteousness, is

here brought to view. The number of the days during which they were thus to fall is given in Dan.7:25; 12:7; Rev.12:6,14; 13:5. The period is called, "a time, times, and the dividing of time;" "a time, times and a half;" "a thousand two hundred and three-score days;" and "forty and two months." It is the 1260 years of papal supremacy." —Uriah Smith, *Ibid.*, p. 289.

A LITTLE HELP

7. Referring to this dreadful time of tribulation for His people, what did Jesus say which harmonised with Gabriel's words?

Matt. 24:21, 22 i.e. Dan. 11:34

“The persecution of the church did not continue throughout the entire period of the 1260 years. God in mercy to His people cut short the time of their fiery trial. In foretelling the "great tribulation" to befall the church, the Saviour said: "Except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened." Matthew 24:22. Through the influence of the Reformation the persecution was brought to an end prior to 1798.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 266.

8. How do the descriptions of Gabriel in verses 34 and 35 of Daniel 11 reveal the history of the ups and downs of the Reformation from the fourteenth to the eighteenth centuries? Dan. 11:34, 35

“The great Reformation by Luther and his co-workers furnished the help here foretold. [...] But when they should be helped, and the cause begin to become popular, many were to cleave unto them with flatteries, or embrace the cause from unworthy motives, be insincere, hollow-hearted, and speak smooth and friendly words through a policy of self-interest.”

“Though restrained, the spirit of persecution was not destroyed. It broke out whenever there was opportunity. [...] And this condition of affairs was to last more or less to the time of the end.” —Uriah Smith, *Ibid.*, p. 290.

MEDITATION

☞ A lesson to learn not to fall for the plausible reasonings of the enemy.

“Those who follow their own mind and walk in their own way will form crooked characters. Vain doctrines and subtle sentiments will be introduced with plausible presentations, to deceive, if possible, the very elect. Are church members building upon the Rock? The storm is coming, the storm that will try every man's faith, of what sort it is. Believers must now be firmly rooted in Christ, or else they will be led astray by some phase of error. Let your faith be substantiated by the Word of God. Grasp firmly the living testimony of truth. Have faith in Christ as a personal Saviour. He has been and ever will be our Rock of Ages. The testimony of the Spirit of God is true. Change not your faith for any phase of doctrine, however pleasing it may appear, that will seduce the soul.” —*Evangelism*, p. 361.

Orchestrations to Deal with the Papacy

*Therefore all they that devour thee shall be devoured; and all thine adversaries, every one of them, shall go into captivity; and they that spoil thee shall be a spoil, and all that prey upon thee will I give for a prey.
Jeremiah 30:16*

OBJECTIVES

- To see that our key text is true in God's dealing with the abomination of desolation.
- To identify the agency God used to deal with the papacy and inflict a deadly wound upon her.
- To behold the cessation of persecution by the papacy after 1798.

TIME UP FOR PAPAL DOMINANCE

- 1. Looking back over the history of this lesson, how did God deal with one nation after another when their cup of iniquity was full?
Jer. 30:16; 50:9, 10; Ezek. 30:10, 11**

☞ Example:

“In that last night of mad folly, Belshazzar and his lords had filled up the measure of their guilt and the guilt of the Chaldean kingdom. No longer could God's restraining hand ward off the impending evil. Through manifold providences, God had sought to teach them reverence for His law. "We would have healed Babylon," He declared of those whose

judgment was now reaching unto heaven, "but she is not healed." Jeremiah 51:9. Because of the strange perversity of the human heart, God had at last found it necessary to pass the irrevocable sentence. Belshazzar was to fall, and his kingdom was to pass into other hands."

"The army of Cyrus now stood under the walls of the palace..." —*Prophets and Kings*, pp. 530, 531.

2. As the Roman church was permitted to conquer pagan Rome, what was the doom foretold for her? Rev. 13:10 i.e. Jer. 30:16

"It was inflicted when the pope was taken prisoner by Berthier, the French general, and the papal government was for a time abolished, in 1798. Stripped of his power, both civil and ecclesiastical, the captive pope, Pius VI, died in exile at Valence in France, Aug. 29, 1799." —Uriah Smith, *Daniel and The Revelation* (1897 edition), p. 563.

DESOLATION BY FRANCE

3. As a little help came to preserve the existence of the faithful by the rise of the Reformation, what nation is brought into focus to halt the devastation by papal Rome? Dan. 11:35, 36

"Evidently a new power is here introduced, and it must be an atheistical power, in the fullest sense of that term, inasmuch as it was to regard neither the God of heaven nor any God; and this development is to be met about the year 1798, which period is referred to as the time of the end.

"France is the only nation in the world concerning which the authentic record survives that as a nation she lifted her hand in open rebellion against the Author of the universe." —International Sabbath-School Quarterly, *The Prophecies of Daniel* (First Quarter 1904), Lesson 10, Note 6.

4. What other and still more striking specifications were fulfilled in this power? Dan. 11:37

“The Hebrew word for *woman* is also translated *wife*; and [...] this passage would be more properly rendered "the desire of wives". This would seem to indicate that this government, at the same time it declared that God did not exist, would trample underfoot the law which God had given to regulate the marriage institution.”

“Intimately connected with these laws affecting religion was that which reduced the union of marriage [...] to the state of a mere civil contract of a transitory character, which any two persons might engage in and cast loose at pleasure, when their taste was changed, or their appetite gratified. [...] Sophie Arnoult, an actress famous for the witty things she said, described the republican marriage as the sacrament of adultery.” —Uriah Smith, *Ibid.*, p. 294.

5. Having desolated every Christian principle espoused by both papal and Protestant faiths, and denouncing all gods, what was meant with Daniel 11:38?

“We meet a seeming contradiction in this verse. How can a nation disregard every god, and yet honor the god of forces? It could not at one and the same time hold both these positions; but it might for a time disregard all gods, and then subsequently introduce another worship and regard the god of forces. Did such a change occur in France at this time? - It did. [...] In 1793 the worship of the Goddess of Reason was introduced...”

“Truly this was a strange god, whom the fathers of that generation knew not. No such deity had ever before been set up as an object of adoration. And well might it be called the god of forces; for the object of the movement was

to cause the people to renew their covenant and repeat their vows for the prosperity of the armies of France.” —Uriah Smith, *Ibid.*, pp. 297, 300.

6. With this background of desolation concluded in verse 39, what event identified the time appointed as the time of the end?

Dan. 11:40 (1st half)

“On the 5th of March, 1798, Bonaparte received the decree of the French Directory relative to the expedition against Egypt. He left Paris May 3, and set sail from Toulon on the 19th, with a large naval armament, consisting of 500 sail, carrying 40,000 soldiers and 10,000 sailors. July 5, Alexandria was taken and fortified. On September of this same year, the sultan of Turkey declared war against France. Thus the king of the north (Turkey) came against him (France) in the same year that the king of the south (Egypt) "pushed," and all at the time called for in the prophecy,—the time of the end.” —International Sabbath-School Quarterly, *Ibid.*, Lesson 11, Note 1.

7. As verified in the previous question that 1798 was the commencement date of the time of the end, how can we conclude that papal persecution would cease at that time according to Daniel 11:35?

☞ Refer to the note for question 2 of this lesson. Ponder the following:

“The periods here mentioned--"forty and two months," and "a thousand two hundred and threescore days"--are the same, alike representing the time in which the church of Christ was to suffer oppression from Rome. The 1260 years of papal supremacy began in A.D. 538 and would therefore terminate in 1798. At that time a French army entered Rome and made the pope a prisoner, and he died in exile. Though a new pope was soon afterward elected, the papal hierarchy has never since been able to wield the power which it before possessed.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 266.

MEDITATION

- ☞ Having followed the vision given to Daniel to this point, we have seen the darkness of human turmoil, war, and persecution overruled by Jesus with Gabriel. We marvel to behold the following:

“In the annals of human history, the growth of nations, the rise and fall of empires, appear as if dependent on the will and prowess of man; the shaping of events seems, to a great degree, to be determined by his power, ambition, or caprice. But in the word of God the curtain is drawn aside, and we behold, above, behind, and through all the play and counterplay of human interest and power and passions, the agencies of the All-merciful One, silently, patiently working out the counsels of His own will.” —*Prophets and Kings*, p. 499.

Orchestration Dealing with the Papal Desolator

*The Lord hath broken the staff of the wicked, and the sceptre of the rulers.
Isaiah 14:5*

OBJECTIVES

- To recount the demonstration of God dealing with emperors and kings by orchestrating their hunger for conquest for His purposes.
- To see Him doing it again to the monarch of France.
- To observe the return of the kings of the north and south.

WHEELS WITHIN WHEELS

- 1. In our study of the prophecy of Daniel, what aspect of the Day Star arising in our hearts can be addressed? 2 Cor. 4:6; Isa. 60:2**

“This lesson is taught in a wonderful symbolic representation given to the prophet Ezekiel [chapters 1 and 10]. . . . A number of wheels, intersecting one another, were moved by four living beings. . . . The wheels were so complicated in arrangement that at first sight they appeared to be in confusion; but they moved in perfect harmony. Heavenly beings, sustained and guided by the hand beneath the wings of the cherubim, were impelling these wheels; above them upon the sapphire throne, was the Eternal One; and round about the throne a rainbow, the emblem of divine mercy. As the wheellike complications were under the guidance of the hand beneath the wings of the cherubim, so the complicated play of human events is under divine control. Amidst the strife and tumult of nations, He that sitteth

above the cherubim still guides the affairs of the earth.” —*God’s Amazing Grace*, p. 50.

2. Reflecting back on Daniel 10:13, 21 and Daniel 11:1, and arriving at this stage of national affairs, how does Jesus emerge as a light to illumine the darkness surrounding us? Matt. 28:20

“Fearful perils are before those who bear responsibilities in the cause of God-- perils the thought of which make me tremble. But the word comes, "My hand is upon the wheel, and I will not allow men to control My work for these last days. My hand is turning the wheel, and My providence will continue to work out the divine plans, irrespective of human inventions."

“In the great closing work we shall meet with perplexities that we know not how to deal with, but let us not forget that the three great powers of heaven are working, that a divine hand is on the wheel, and that God will bring His purposes to pass.” —*Evangelism*, p. 65.

SWIFT RETRIBUTION

3. As atheistical France arose so God could inflict a fatal wound upon the papacy, how does He then deal with the atrocities of France and Napoleon? Dan. 11:40

“While the nations rejected God's principles, and in this rejection wrought their own ruin, it was still manifest that the divine, overruling purpose was working through all their movements.” —*Education*, p. 177.

4. How did France get involved with the king of the south and the king of the north?

“"[Napoleon] saw a far-off land, where a glory was to be won which would gain a new charm in the eyes of his countrymen by the romance and mystery which hung upon the scene. Egypt, the land of the Pharaohs and the Ptolemies, would be a noble field for new triumphs."

“...and on September 2 of [...] 1798, the sultan of Turkey, under feelings of jealousy against France, [...] and exasperated that Egypt, so long a semi-dependency of the Ottoman empire, should be transformed into a French province, declared war against France.” —Uriah Smith, *Daniel and The Revelation* (1897 edition), pp. 303, 304.

5. How were the ambitions of Napoleon systematically brought to naught? Isa. 13:11

“Egypt, desiring to escape from Turkish rule, preferred to be under the domination of the French. But the tide of events turned otherwise. The English, as the ally of the Turks, determined to wrest Egypt from the French. After a series of battles, in which the French were worsted by the combined forces of the English and the Turks, the whole of the French army was shut up in Cairo and Alexandria. Cairo capitulated June 27, 1801, and Alexandria on September 2. Four weeks later (October 1), the preliminaries of peace were signed at London.” —International Sabbath-School Quarterly, *The Prophecies of Daniel* (First Quarter 1904), Lesson 11, Note 3.

GOD HUMBLER NAPOLEON

6. What did we learn as to how God deals with kings and what nation did He use to weaken Napoleon? Jer. 30:14, 16

“...the situation of Napoleon began to grow precarious. The French fleet, which was his only channel of communication with France, (while in Egypt) was destroyed by the English under Nelson at Aboukir.” —Uriah Smith, *Ibid.*, p. 304.

“On the 8th of March 1799, the siege of Acre was begun. After the siege had been kept up sixty days, it was raised, and Napoleon sounded, for the first time in his career, the note of retreat, and on the 21st of May commenced to retrace his steps to Egypt. Turkey (the king of the north) came off the victor in that struggle, driving the French back into Egypt. Thus, the king of the north (Turkey) "overflowed and passed over.” —International Sabbath-School Quarterly, *Ibid.*, Lesson 11, Note 1.

7. What was repeated with this lesser nation of France, which had taken place to all previous nations? Jer. 51:11

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

MEDITATION

- ☞ Let us never forget the oft repeated lesson contained in this vision that:

“The Lord hath broken the staff of the wicked, and the scepter of the rulers.” Isaiah 14:5.

Let us remember that, when we have to stand before rulers.

Revisiting the Kings of the North and South

Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar. Proverbs 30:5, 6

OBJECTIVES

- To show from Scripture that in correct interpretation of prophecy we must use meanings consistently.
- In applying that principle, to show that the territory of north and south does not alter at any time throughout the vision to mean literal territory at the beginning and symbolic at the end.
- To confirm that the territory of the king of the north still proves true in the last days fulfillment of Daniel 11.

CORRECTLY INTERPRETING

- 1. What is written regarding the interpretation of prophecy?
2 Peter 1:20, 21**

“No man is safe for a day or an hour without prayer. Especially should we entreat the Lord for wisdom to understand His word. Here are revealed the wiles of the tempter and the means by which he may be successfully resisted. Satan is an expert in quoting Scripture, placing his own interpretation upon passages, by which he hopes to cause us to stumble. We should study the Bible with humility of heart, never losing sight of our dependence upon God. While we must constantly guard against the devices

of Satan, we should pray in faith continually: "Lead us not into temptation."” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 530.

2. In reading the Bible, what principle is to be adopted in seeking its correct meaning? Prov. 30:5, 6; Isa. 34:16; Deut. 4:2

“The truths most plainly revealed in the Bible have been involved in doubt and darkness by learned men, who, with a pretense of great wisdom, teach that the Scriptures have a mystical, a secret, spiritual meaning not apparent in the language employed. These men are false teachers. It was to such a class that Jesus declared: "Ye know not the Scriptures, neither the power of God." Mark 12:24. The language of the Bible should be explained according to its obvious meaning, unless a symbol or figure is employed. Christ has given the promise: "If any man will do His will, he shall know of the doctrine." John 7:17. If men would but take the Bible as it reads, if there were no false teachers to mislead and confuse their minds, a work would be accomplished that would make angels glad and that would bring into the fold of Christ thousands upon thousands who are now wandering in error.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 598.

3. Are there any symbols used in the prophecy of Daniel 11? Examine some examples: Dan. 11:1-3, 14 etc.

“We now enter upon a prophecy of future events, clothed not in figures and symbols, as in the visions of chapter 2, 7, and 8, but given mostly in plain language. Many of the signal events of the world's history, from the days of Daniel to the end of the world, are here brought to view.” —Uriah Smith, *Daniel and The Revelation* (1897 edition), p. 247.

LITERAL NORTH AND SOUTH

- 4. Arriving at the fall of Alexander the Great and the distribution of the empire to the four directions of the compass under his generals, we saw north and south of Palestine consolidating (Dan. 11:6). How consistently are we to hold to this literal territory in the remainder of the vision?**

“The king of the north and the king of the south are many times referred to in the remaining portion of this chapter.”

“During the wars and revolutions which for long ages succeeded, these geographical boundaries were frequently changed or obliterated; old ones were wiped out, and new ones instituted. But whatever changes might occur, these first divisions of the empire must determine the names which these portions of territory should ever afterward bear, or we have no standard by which to test the application of the prophecy.” —Uriah Smith, *Ibid.*, p. 249.

- 5. Therefore, having spent many lessons on Rome in its pagan and then its papal state, and also France in its attack on the papacy during which no mention of north or south was frequently made, has the return of north and south in Daniel 11:40 altered any meaning of literal application?**

“After a long interval, the king of the south and the king of the north again appear on the stage of action. We have met with nothing to indicate that we are to look to any localities for these powers other than those which, shortly after the death of Alexander, constituted respectively the southern and northern divisions of his empire. The king of the south was at that time Egypt, and the king of the north was Syria, including Thrace and Asia Minor. Egypt is still, by common agreement, the king of the south, while the territory which at first constituted the king of the north, has been for the past

four hundred years wholly included within the dominions of the sultan of Turkey. To Egypt and Turkey, then, in connection with the power last under consideration, we must look for a fulfilment of the verse before us.” —Uriah Smith, *Ibid.*, p. 302.

APPLICATION TO THE END

6. Why was this vision given? Dan. 10:14. Casting therefore a brief view ahead to the very end, what consistent mention does Gabriel make from Daniel 11:40-45 regarding the king of the north?

“As Dr. Clarke said of the 44th verse in 1825, we can now say of this 45th verse, it is yet unfulfilled. All except the closing verse of this remarkable chapter has now been wrought out in history. We must look to Turkey to fulfil the movement predicted in this verse.

“The expression, "none shall help him," clearly implies that he has previously been helped by other powers. In the war with France (1798-1801), England and Russia assisted the sultan. In the war between Turkey and Egypt (1838-1840), England, Russia, Austria, and Prussia, intervened on behalf of Turkey. In the Crimean War (1853-1856), England, France, and Sardinia supported the Turks. In the Russo-Turkish War of 1877-78, the great powers of Europe interfered to arrest the progress of Russia.” —International Sabbath-School Quarterly, *The Prophecies of Daniel* (First Quarter 1904), Lesson 11, Notes 5 & 6.

7. How is Turkey so important in today’s 2023 events? Of what empire is it still regarded as important to the Islamic world?

“Since the death of Mohammed, A. D. 622, his followers, the wild hordes of barbarians, were under no general civil government. Gibbon refers to them as "this shipwreck of nations." The first king who organized those tribes into a government was Osman, afterward called Othman. The rise and

progress of Mohammedanism is the subject of a prophecy recorded in the ninth chapter of the Revelation. The first incursions of these hordes is described in verses 1-3. The beginning of Othman's reign is noted in the 11th verse, where it is stated that "they had a king over them." From this point the Ottoman Empire began to fulfil its mission as one of the scourges of the corrupt Roman Empire—the destroyer of the Greek or eastern portion of it, ruled from Constantinople.” —International Sabbath-School Quarterly, *Ibid.*, Lesson 11, Note 7.

MEDITATION

☞ How important it is to read the Bible aright?

“There are many things apparently difficult or obscure, which God will make plain and simple to those who thus seek an understanding of them. But without the guidance of the Holy Spirit we shall be continually liable to wrest the Scriptures or to misinterpret them. There is much reading of the Bible that is without profit and in many cases a positive injury. 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.” —*Steps to Christ*, p. 110.

End-time Orchestrations of the King of the North

But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased. Daniel 12:4

OBJECTIVES

- To confirm that 1798 marked the time of the end.
- To reveal the events regarding the king of the north since 1798.
- To recognise that the Islamic world is associated with the king of the north.

TIME OF THE END

- 1. Having identified 1798 as the end of the papal persecution, what other references reveal that year to be the beginning of the end time? Dan. 8:17; Rev. 10:2, 5, 6, 9-11; Dan. 12:4, 13**

“The mighty angel who instructed John was no less a personage than Jesus Christ. Setting His right foot on the sea, and His left upon the dry land, shows the part which He is acting in the closing scenes of the great controversy with Satan. This position denotes His supreme power and authority over the whole earth. The controversy had waxed stronger and more determined from age to age, and will continue to do so, to the concluding scenes when the masterly working of the powers of darkness shall reach their height. Satan, united with evil men, will deceive the whole world and the churches who receive not the love of the truth. But the mighty angel demands attention.

He cries with a loud voice. He is to show the power and authority of His voice to those who have united with Satan to oppose the truth.” —*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 7*, p. 971.

2. In pointing out that the vision was to reveal the latter days (Dan. 10:14), how did Gabriel help to identify these days? Dan. 12:9-11

“In reference to verse 11: The margin reads, “*To set up the abomination,*” etc. With this reading the text would stand thus: “And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away to set up [or in order to set up] the abomination that maketh desolate, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days.” The daily has already been shown to be, not the daily sacrifice of the Jews, but the daily or continual abomination, that is, paganism. [...] Counting back, then, 1290 years from 1798, we have the year 508, where it has been shown that paganism was taken away, thirty years before the setting up of the papacy. [...] The two periods, therefore, the 1290 and the 1260 days, terminate together in 1798, the one beginning in 538, and the other in 508, thirty years previous.” —Uriah Smith, *Daniel and The Revelation* (1897 edition), p. 341.

3. How else is the date of 1798 derived? Dan. 7:25; Rev. 12:6, 14; 13:5

“The period is called, “a time, times, and the dividing of time;” “a time, times and a half;” “a thousand two hundred and three-score days;” and “forty and two months.” It is the 1260 years of papal supremacy.” —Uriah Smith, *Ibid.*, p. 289.

KING OF THE NORTH SINCE 1798

- 4. As in Daniel 11:40, we have seen France heavily attacked by the king of the north, i.e. Turkey, what does he continue to do? Dan. 11:41**

“... the French [...] after a fatiguing march of twenty-six days re-entered Cairo in Egypt. They thus abandoned all the conquests they had made in Judea; and the "glorious land," Palestine, with all its provinces, here called "countries," fell back again under the oppressive rule of the Turk. Edom, Moab, and Ammon, lying outside the limits of Palestine, [...] were out of the line of march of the Turks from Syria to Egypt, and so escaped the ravages of that campaign.” —Uriah Smith, *Ibid.*, p. 307.

- 5. How completely did the Turks (the king of the north) vanquish the French out of the countries it had occupied? Dan. 11:42**

“On the retreat of the French to Egypt, a Turkish fleet landed 18,000 men at Aboukir.”

“Meanwhile, the English government, as the ally of the Turks, had resolved to wrest Egypt from the French. March 13, 1800, an English fleet disembarked a body of troops at Aboukir. The French gave battle the next day, but were forced to retire. On the 18th Aboukir surrendered. On the 28th reinforcements were brought by a Turkish fleet, and the grand vizier approached from Syria with a large army. The 19th, Rosetta surrendered to the combined forces of the English and Turks. [...] The whole French army was now shut up in Cairo and Alexandria. Cairo capitulated June 27, and Alexandria, September 2. Four weeks after, Oct.1, 1801, the preliminaries of peace were signed at London.”

“As between the French and Turks, how did this question stand with the Egyptians? - They preferred French rule. [...] They did desire to escape from the hands of the Turks, but could not.” —Uriah Smith, *Ibid.*, p. 308.

6. Under Turkish domination now, what did Gabriel say regarding the treasury of Egypt? Daniel 11:43

“When the French were driven out of Egypt, and the Turks took possession, the sultan permitted the Egyptians to reorganize their government as it was before the French invasion. [...] In the articles of agreement between the sultan and the pasha of Egypt, it was stipulated that the Egyptians should pay annually to the Turkish government a certain amount of gold and silver, and 'six hundred thousand measures of corn, and four hundred thousand of barley.”

“The Libyans and the Ethiopians," "the *Cushim*," says Dr. Clarke, "the unconquered Arabs," who have sought the friendship of the Turks, and many of whom are tributary to them at the present time.” —Uriah Smith, *Ibid.*, p. 309.

LEAD-UP TO UNFULFILLED EVENTS

7. As the Ottoman Empire with Turkey as its headquarters was slowly disintegrating, what valiant effort did it exert? Dan. 11:44

“It is a remarkable fact that in the year 1825, twenty-eight years before the Crimean War broke out, Dr. Adam Clarke, in commenting upon the fulfilment of this very prophecy, wrote the following comment: "This part of the prophecy is allowed to be yet unfulfilled. If the Turkish power be understood, as in the preceding verses, it may mean that the Persians on the east and the Russians on the north will at some time greatly embarrass the Ottoman government." Just twenty-eight years after Dr. Clarke penned this

suggestion, the world was amazed to see Turkey, a government which had long been regarded as "the sick man of the east," declare war against her powerful neighbor, Russia. Thus Turkey fulfilled the specifications of this part of the prophecy, which describes her as going "forth with great fury." —International Sabbath-School Quarterly, *The Prophecies of Daniel* (First Quarter 1904), Lesson 11, Note 4.

**8. As Turkey today is still functioning from its governing palaces in that land, what of Gabriel's words are we still waiting to see?
Dan. 11:45; 12:1**

“As Dr. Clarke said of the 44th verse in 1825, we can now say of this 45th verse, -- it is yet unfulfilled. All except the closing verse of this remarkable chapter has now been wrought out in history. We must look to Turkey to fulfil the movement predicted in this verse.” —International Sabbath-School Quarterly, *Ibid.*, Lesson 11, Note 5.

“The judgments of God are in the land. The wars and rumors of wars, the destruction by fire and flood, say clearly that the time of trouble, which is to increase until the end, is very near at hand. We have no time to lose. The world is stirred with the spirit of war. The prophecies of the eleventh of Daniel have almost reached their final fulfillment.” —*Welfare Ministry*, p. 136.

MEDITATION

- ☞ How intensively close are we to the close of probation and the final scenes at the conclusion of the time of the end?

“Not long ago a very impressive scene passed before me. I saw an immense ball of fire falling among some beautiful mansions, causing their instant destruction. I heard someone say, "We knew that the judgments of God were coming upon the earth, but we did not know that they would come so soon." Others said, "You knew? Why then did you not tell us? We did not know." On every side I heard such words spoken.”

“Soon grievous troubles will arise among the nations --trouble that will not cease until Jesus comes. As never before we need to press together, serving Him who has prepared His throne in the heavens and whose kingdom ruleth

overall. God has not forsaken His people, and our strength lies in not forsaking Him.” —*Welfare Ministry*, p. 136.

Islamic Powers and the King of the North

And as for Ishmael, I have heard thee: Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly; twelve princes shall he beget, and I will make him a great nation. Genesis 17:20

OBJECTIVES

- To identify clearly the connection of the king of the north with all the Islamic states.
- To recognise that the Arabic states are all affectionately bound to the same heredity as the Israelis.
- To show that Palestine is indeed a place that both the Israelis and Arabs have a religious interest in, and that hence Turkey would be prone to shift there its headquarters (Caliphate).

REMNANTS OF THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE

1. Of what people was the Ottoman Empire composed, and where was its governing seat? Rev. 9:12-15

“The Four Angels. - These were the four principal sultans of which the Ottoman empire was composed, located in the country watered by the great river Euphrates. These sultans were situated at Aleppo, Iconium, Damascus, and Bagdad. Previously they had been restrained; but God commanded, and they were loosed.” —Uriah Smith, *Daniel and The Revelation* (1897 edition), p. 508.

“The four angels were loosed for an hour, a day, a month, and a year, to slay the third part of men. This period amounts to three hundred and ninety-one years and fifteen days; during which Ottoman supremacy was to exist in Constantinople [modern Istanbul].” —Uriah Smith, *The Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, July 29, 1858.

2. How was this time period established, and what happened at the end of it?

“Gibbon says: It was on the twenty-seventh day of July, in the year twelve hundred and ninety-nine of the Christian era, that Othman first invaded the territory of Nicomedia; and the singular accuracy of the date seems to disclose some fore sight of the rapid and destructive growth of the monster.”

“The time allotted for the Mohammedan conquest was given as "five months," and a further period of "an hour, a day, and a month, and a year" was allotted to its supremacy. This being prophetic time, must be reckoned in the following manner, from the initial date as given by Gibbon:—

Date given by Gibbon.....July 27, 1299
"Five months," 150 days—150 literal years.....July 27, 1449
"An hour," 24th part of a day—15 literal days.....Aug. 11, 1449
"A day"—1 literal year.....Aug. 11, 1450
"A month," 30 days—30 literal years.....Aug. 11, 1480
"A year," 360 days—360 literal years.....Aug. 11, 1840”

—International Sabbath-School Quarterly, *The Prophecies of Daniel* (First Quarter 1904), Lesson 11, Notes 8 & 9.

“In the year 1840 another remarkable fulfillment of prophecy excited widespread interest. Two years before, Josiah Litch, one of the leading ministers preaching the second advent, published an exposition of Revelation 9, predicting the fall of the Ottoman Empire. According to his calculations, this power was to be overthrown "in A.D. 1840, sometime in the month of August;" and only a few days previous to its accomplishment he wrote: "Allowing the first period, 150 years, to have been exactly fulfilled before Deacozes ascended the throne by permission of the Turks, and that the 391 years, fifteen days, commenced at the close of the first period, it will end on the 11th of August, 1840, when the Ottoman power in Constantinople

may be expected to be broken. And this, I believe, will be found to be the case."

“At the very time specified, Turkey, through her ambassadors, accepted the protection of the allied powers of Europe, and thus placed herself under the control of Christian nations. The event exactly fulfilled the prediction. When it became known, multitudes were convinced of the correctness of the principles of prophetic interpretation adopted by Miller and his associates, and a wonderful impetus was given to the advent movement. Men of learning and position united with Miller, both in preaching and in publishing his views, and from 1840 to 1844 the work rapidly extended.” —*The Great Controversy*, pp. 334, 335.

3. Although that empire no longer functions, are Palestine and the Jewish people still suffering under the ire of the Arab states? How far back was this discomfort expressed? Ps. 120:5-7

- ☞ To discover who Kedar is, check Genesis 25:13, and study the map in this pamphlet (beginning of section 2) to locate where the nations under these two names are located.

LINEAGE AND HEREDITY OF THE ARABS

4. Having seen that Kedar is a son of Ishmael, what characteristic was written of his posterity? Gen. 16:11, 12

“Abraham's early teachings had not been without effect upon Ishmael, but the influence of his wives resulted in establishing idolatry in his family. Separated from his father and embittered by the strife and contention of a home destitute of the love and fear of God, Ishmael was driven to choose the wild, marauding life of the desert chief, "his hand" "against every man, and every man's hand against him." Genesis 16:12. In his latter days he

repented of his evil ways and returned to his father's God, but the stamp of character given to his posterity remained. The powerful nation descended from him were a turbulent, heathen people, who were ever an annoyance and affliction to the descendants of Isaac.” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 174.

5. Although there was a leaning in idolatry in Ishmael’s line, yet what was the blessing God bestowed on Ishmael? Gen. 17:20

“Abraham is greatly distressed. Ishmael is his son, beloved by him. How can he send him away! He prays to God in his perplexity, for he knows not what course to take. The Lord informs Abraham, through his angels, to listen to the voice of Sarah his wife, and that he should not let his affections for his son, or for Hagar, prevent his compliance with her wishes. For this was the only course he could pursue to restore harmony and happiness again to his family. Abraham has the consoling promise from the angel, that Ishmael, although separated from his father's house, should not die, nor be forsaken of God; that he should be preserved because he was the son of Abraham. God also promises to make of Ishmael a great nation.”
—*The Spirit of Prophecy Vol. 1*, p. 97.

6. Because of God’s blessing upon Ishmael, what do the Arabs claim in reference to Palestine and their faith?

“Near the close of the sixth century there was born in Mecca, of the princes of Arabia, a man who claimed direct descent from Ishmael, the son of Abraham. This man was Mohammed, the son of Abdallah, and the founder of a faith, which, to-day has many thousand adherents.”

“On his return from one of these seasons of seclusion he announced his belief in one God, and that Mohammed was the prophet of God. This was the beginning of Islamism.” —Stephen N. Haskell, *The Story of the Seer of Patmos*, pp. 162, 163.

- ☞ Today the Arabs regard Jerusalem as sacred a place as do the Jews. — They have built their shrine and mosque over the place where the Jewish temple once stood.

7. Because of these bonds, what will Turkey do as a last sign of the very close of time? Dan. 11:45, 12:1

“The time will come when he will remove from Constantinople and take up his abode in Palestine; that is, plant his tabernacle between the Mediterranean and Red Seas.” —Stephen N. Haskell, *The Story of Daniel the Prophet*, p. 247.

“The Turks themselves expect to be removed from Constantinople. They expect then the seat of their power to be in Jerusalem.” —A. T. Jones, *The Bible Echo*, June 15, 1896.

MEDITATION

- ☞ In our study through Daniel chapters 10 and 11, we have arrived at unfulfilled prophecy. Do we hold the same thrill as did the pioneers over the next event?

“It must be clear to every careful reader that the driving of the Turk from the soil of Europe will be the fulfilment of the closing verse of the eleventh chapter of Daniel’s prophecy. What makes this line of prophecy of momentous interest to every one now living is the fact that the downfall of the Turkish Empire will be the signal of the most sublime events that the world has ever witnessed. The prophecy closes with the first two verses of chapter 12.” —International Sabbath-School Quarterly, *Ibid.*, Lesson 12, Note 2.

Orchestrations Toward Armageddon

Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame. Revelation 16:15

OBJECTIVES

- To recognise the connection between our understanding of the incarnation of Christ and the subject of Daniel 11.
- To be made aware of the importance of understanding this subject in reference to being on the right side of the war issue.
- To recognise the activities that are leading up to the final military engagement for man's destruction.

TO RIGHTLY UNDERSTAND

- 1. How does the word of God stress the importance of coming to correct appreciations of his word? Prov. 2:1-6, 11; 4:5-7**

“Labor not for the meat which perisheth,” Christ admonished, “but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for Him hath God the Father sealed.” John 6:27. When we obey these words, we shall rightly understand the teachings of the Scriptures, and esteem the truth as the most valuable treasure with which to store the mind. We shall have within us a wellspring of the water of life. We shall pray, as did the psalmist, “Open Thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of Thy law;” and we shall find, as he did, that “the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be

desired are they then gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover, by them is Thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.” —*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 31.

2. How is our salvation dependent on our understanding of God’s word? What is the central theme that connects all the subjects of the Bible unto salvation? Ps. 119:169, 170; 1 John 5:20

“The sacrifice of Christ as an atonement for sin is the great truth around which all other truths cluster. In order to be rightly understood and appreciated, every truth in the Word of God, from Genesis to Revelation, must be studied in the light which streams from the cross of Calvary, and in connection with the wondrous, central truth of the Saviour’s atonement. Those who study the Redeemer’s wonderful sacrifice grow in grace and knowledge.” —*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 5*, p. 1137.

3. What warning is given to obtain an understanding of the word regarding the build-up to Armageddon? Rev. 16:13-15

“The present is a solemn, fearful time for the church. The angels are already girded, awaiting the mandate of God to pour their vials of wrath upon the world. Destroying angels are taking up the work of vengeance; for the Spirit of God is gradually withdrawing from the world. Satan is also mustering his forces of evil... Fundamental principles will be brought out, and decisions made in regard to them.... The faith of individual members of the church will be tested as though there were not another person in the world.” —*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 7*, p. 983.

MUSTERING TO WAR

4. What spiritual components are involved in the wars of the time of the end which we must be watching out for not to be caught out in shame? Rev. 16:13, 14, 16

“We need to study the pouring out of the seventh vial. The powers of evil will not yield up the conflict without a struggle. But Providence has a part to act in the battle of Armageddon. When the earth is lighted with the glory of the angel of Revelation eighteen, the religious elements, good and evil, will awake from slumber, and the armies of the living God will take the field.” —*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 7*, p. 983.

5. Where does the king of the north (Turkey and the Arab states) come into the religious aspects of this final war? Rev. 16:13, “out of the mouth of the dragon”

“Arab warriors went into battle convinced that their life span was so definitely determined [...]. But the warrior who dies in battle is sure of paradise.

“It is to these facts that the dread of a *jihad*, or holy war, is due.” —Review and Herald Publishing Association, *Handbook for Bible Students*, p. 353.

6. What is written regarding the Muslim powers in regard to Armageddon? Rev. 16:12; Dan. 11:45; Isa. 21:16, 17

“Isa. 8:7. A river, flowing through a country, is taken as a type of the country; hence, the drying up of the Euphrates would indicate the drying up of the Turkish empire under the sixth plague.” —Stephen N. Haskell, *Bible Handbook*, p. 27.

7. Before a large scale war takes place, what is required to dispatch such a war? Joel 3:9, 10, 14; Rev. 16:14

“It seems evident that the preparatory work of the sixth plague, the gathering of the kings of the East, in readiness for the opening of the battle of Armageddon, is a movement that takes place before the seven last plagues begin to fall. In other words, this movement on the part of the kings of the East will be a sign that probation is about to close, and the plagues about to fall, also that the battle of Armageddon is about to begin.” —International Sabbath-School Quarterly, *The Prophecies of Daniel* (First Quarter 1904), Lesson 13, Note 1.

OUR PREPARATION

8. As preparations are afoot to such conclusive end, what should we be doing just now? Amos 4:12

“All the world will be on one side or the other of the question. The battle of Armageddon will be fought, and that day must find none of us sleeping. Wide awake we must be, as wise virgins having oil in our vessels with our lamps.” —S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 7, p. 982.

“On which side are we ranging ourselves?” —*Special Testimony to Battle Creek Church* (1898), PHO86, p. 11.

MEDITATION

- ☞ For a long time, preparations for Armageddon have been playing out before our eyes. How close are we to the final stroke? What should our entire focus and activity be?

“The work will grow deeper and become more earnest to the very close of time. And all who are laborers together with God will contend most earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints. They will not be turned from the present message, which is already lightening the earth with its glory. Nothing is worth contending for but the glory of God. The only rock that will stand is the Rock of Ages. The truth as it is in Jesus is the refuge in these days of error.” —*Manuscript Releases Vol. 17*, p. 18.

- ☞ Should any of God’s children be party to any military activity at this time?

The Moment of Truth

Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. Matthew 24:42

OBJECTIVES

- To receive the warning of Christ regarding the arrival of the close of probation.
- What event are we to clearly watch for so that we will not be caught out by the thief?
- To understand the meaning of Michael standing up and the point in world events which God's people will recognise that marks that time.

CHRIST'S MEANING

1. What warning did Christ give for the benefit of His believers at this very time? Matt. 24:37-44

“If such had only known that the work of Christ in the heavenly sanctuary would close so soon, how differently would they have conducted themselves, how earnestly would they have watched! The Master, anticipating all this, gives them timely warning in the command to watch. He distinctly states the suddenness of His coming. He does not measure the time, lest we shall neglect a momentary preparation, and in our indolence look ahead to the time when we think He will come and defer the preparation. "Watch ye therefore: for ye know not." Yet this foretold uncertainty, and suddenness at last, fails to rouse us from stupidity to earnest wakefulness, and to quicken our watchfulness for our expected

Master. Those not found waiting and watching are finally surprised in their unfaithfulness. The Master comes, and instead of their being ready to open unto Him immediately, they are locked in worldly slumber, and are lost at last.” —*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 2*, p. 191.

**2. What did Jesus mean when He said that His coming would take people by surprise? What coming did He refer to?
Rev. 19:11-15**

“Jesus has left us word: "Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the Master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: lest coming suddenly He find you sleeping. And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch." We are waiting and watching for the return of the Master, who is to bring the morning, lest coming suddenly He find us sleeping. What time is here referred to? Not to the revelation of Christ in the clouds of heaven to find a people asleep. No; but to His return from His ministration in the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary, when He lays off His priestly attire and clothes Himself with garments of vengeance, and when the mandate goes forth: "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still; and he that is holy, let him be holy still."” —*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 2*, p. 190.

THE WISE WILL KNOW

3. As Christ’s true church could recognise when He moved into the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary, will His true followers be able to know when He finishes there? What did Gabriel say regarding this? Dan. 11:45; 12:1

“A definite time is introduced in this verse (Daniel 12:1), not a time revealed in names or figures which specify any particular year or month or day, but a time made definite by the occurrence of a certain event with which it stands connected. "At that time." What time? - The time to which we are brought by the closing verse of the preceding chapter, - the time when the king of the north shall plant the tabernacles of his palace in the glorious holy mountain; or, in other words, when the Turk, driven from Europe, shall hastily make Jerusalem his temporary seat of government. [...] And when this event takes place, he is to come to his end; [...]. This movement on the part of Turkey is the signal for the standing up of Michael; that is, it marks this event as next in order.” —Uriah Smith, *Daniel and The Revelation* (1897 edition), p. 319.

4. Having already seen that Michael is Jesus, what is meant by Jesus standing up at that time? Rev. 22:10-12

“When the third angel's message closes, mercy no longer pleads for the guilty inhabitants of the earth. The people of God have accomplished their work. They have received "the latter rain," "the refreshing from the presence of the Lord," and they are prepared for the trying hour before them. Angels are hastening to and fro in heaven. An angel returning from the earth announces that his work is done; the final test has been brought upon the world, and all who have proved themselves loyal to the divine precepts have received "the seal of the living God." Then Jesus ceases His intercession in the sanctuary above. He lifts His hands and with a loud voice says, "It is done;" and all the angelic host lay off their crowns as He makes the solemn announcement: "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still." Revelation 22:11. Every case has been decided for life or death. Christ has made the atonement for His people and blotted out their sins. The number of His subjects is made up; "the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven," is about to be given to the heirs of salvation, and Jesus is to reign as King of kings and Lord of lords.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 613.

5. What is then to take place upon the earth? Dan. 12:1 (last half); Rev. 15:5-8, 16; 16:1

“When He leaves the sanctuary, darkness covers the inhabitants of the earth. In that fearful time the righteous must live in the sight of a holy God without an intercessor. The restraint which has been upon the wicked is removed, and Satan has entire control of the finally impenitent. God's long-suffering has ended. The world has rejected His mercy, despised His love, and trampled upon His law. The wicked have passed the boundary of their probation; the Spirit of God, persistently resisted, has been at last withdrawn. Unsheltered by divine grace, they have no protection from the wicked one. Satan will then plunge the inhabitants of the earth into one great, final trouble. As the angels of God cease to hold in check the fierce winds of human passion, all the elements of strife will be let loose. The whole world will be involved in ruin more terrible than that which came upon Jerusalem of old.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 614.

6. What parable of Christ throws light on this closing of the door of mercy, and what does Gabriel announce regarding who it is that understands the truth on the king of the north? Matt. 24:50, 51-25:1-4; Dan. 12:3, 10 (2nd part)

CHRIST'S CLOSING ORCHESTRATION

7. As Jesus stands up, what does He do before He comes visibly in the clouds of heaven? Rev. 19:13-16; Isa. 63:1-6

MEDITATION

- ☞ Jesus came the first time to impact the world by His sufferings so He could draw the whole world to God, to orchestrate them to peace and goodwill toward each other.
- ☞ To those who reject that drawing of love, He is left with no alternative than to orchestrate them to self-destruct, which we will behold in the last lesson, number 13.

The Wise Will Understand

Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand. Daniel 12:10

OBJECTIVES

- To examine Christ's impact to orchestrate the salvation of the wise virgins of Matthew 25.
- To show how the same orchestration effort on the foolish only drives them to resistance and into the arms of the wicked.
- To explore the depth of God's understanding made available to us regarding His exercising of man's free will and knowledge.

WISE UNTO SALVATION

- 1. Recalling that Jesus, together with Gabriel, works to orchestrate the affairs of humanity in Daniel 10:13, 21 and 11:1, what was their primary mandate in doing this? Luke 19:10; 2 Peter 3:9**

“The purity and holiness of Christ, the spotless righteousness of Him who did no sin, was a perpetual reproach upon all sin in a world of sensuality and sin. In His life the light of truth was flashed amid the moral darkness with which Satan had enshrouded the world. Christ exposed Satan's falsehoods and deceiving character, and in many hearts destroyed his corrupting influence. It was this that stirred Satan with such intense hatred. With his hosts of fallen beings he determined to urge the warfare most

vigorously; for there stood in the world One who was a perfect representative of the Father, One whose character and practices refuted Satan's misrepresentation of God. Satan had charged upon God the attribute he himself possessed. Now in Christ he saw God revealed in His true character--a compassionate, merciful Father, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to Him in repentance, and have eternal life." —*Selected Messages Book 1*, p. 254.

2. Part of Christ's orchestration was to give Himself to the human race to die for their sins and live an exemplary life. How was this conveyed to the world? Isa. 55:10, 11 i.e. John 17:19, 17; Ezek. 38:23

"Sinners will be converted. They will be touched by the word of truth and will say, as did some who listened to Christ's teaching: "We have seen and heard wonderful things today.'" —*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 6*, p. 437.

3. What is the word of God designed to do, and who is active in bringing this about? 2 Tim. 3:15; John 16:12-14

"Today the truths of Scripture are to be brought before the great men of the world in order that they may choose between obedience to God's law and allegiance to the prince of evil. God sets everlasting truth before them--truth that will make them wise unto salvation, but He does not force them to accept it. If they turn from it, He leaves them to themselves, to be filled with the fruit of their own doings." —*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 241.

THE WISE AND FOOLISH VIRGINS

- 4. In the parable of the wise and foolish virgins, what was it that differentiated between the two? Matt. 25:3, 4. Oil? Zech. 4:16**

“From the two olive trees the golden oil was emptied through the golden pipes into the bowl of the candlestick, and thence into the golden lamps that gave light to the sanctuary. So, from the holy ones that stand in God's presence His Spirit is imparted to the human instrumentalities who are consecrated to His service. The mission of the two anointed ones is to communicate to God's people that heavenly grace which alone can make His word a lamp to the feet and a light to the path. "Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.” —*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 408.

- 5. What has a lack of oil in their vessels to do with them being foolish? John 14:16, 17**

“Without the Spirit of God, a knowledge of His word is of no avail. The theory of truth, unaccompanied by the Holy Spirit, cannot quicken the soul or sanctify the heart. One may be familiar with the commands and promises of the Bible; but unless the Spirit of God sets the truth home, the character will not be transformed. Without the enlightenment of the Spirit, men will not be able to distinguish truth from error, and they will fall under the masterful temptations of Satan.” —*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 408.

AWAKE TO THE CLOSE OF PROBATION

- 6. How is the parable connected to Daniel's vision? Dan. 12:1; Matt. 25:10-13; Matt. 24:48-51**

“While they went to buy, the procession moved on, and left them behind. The five with lighted lamps joined the throng and entered the house with the bridal train, and the door was shut. When the foolish virgins reached the banqueting hall, they received an unexpected denial. The master of the feast declared, "I know you not." They were left standing without, in the empty street, in the blackness of the night.” —*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 406.

“Those professed believers who come up to the time of trouble unprepared, will, in their despair, confess their sins before all in words of burning anguish, while the wicked exult over their distress. The case of all such is hopeless. When Christ stands up, and leaves the most holy place, then the time of trouble commences, and the case of every soul is decided, and there will be no atoning blood to cleanse from sin and pollution. As Jesus leaves the most holy, he speaks in tones of decision and kingly authority: "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still; and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still; and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still; and he that is holy, let him be holy still. And behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be."” —*The Spirit of Prophecy Vol. 1*, p. 123.

7. What did Gabriel say about the wise virgins, and how did the oil in their vessels assist them to this understanding? Dan. 12:10 i.e. 1 Cor. 2:10

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

8. Why were the foolish virgins bereft of the understanding of Daniel 11:45 and Daniel 12:1? 1 Cor. 2:14; Prov. 1:23-29; Rom. 1:18, 19, 27.

“I feel so sorry for those who are being misled in their Christian experience, because they do not need to be. God is true. He says, “My grace is sufficient.” God is faithful, who will not suffer any soul to be tempted above that he is able. God weighs every trial before He permits it to be allotted. He knows every circumstance, and He will give the light essential to resist temptation, unless the one tempted refuses to discern the truth because he does not wish to know. Then God leaves him to his own choice. If he chooses the darkness, he will have it. Every time he yields to Satan's dictation, in order to maintain his own objectionable dignity, he is placed where he does not choose to know and to understand the truth. It is not God's way that he wants, but his own way, for God's way would not glorify self.” —*Manuscript Releases Vol. 10*, p. 344.

MEDITATION

- ☞ How sad to learn in this lesson that, although the wicked servant proclaimed the advent of Jesus, in his heart he said, The Lord delayeth His coming, and so ate and drank with the drunken. The same thing seemed to follow with the foolish virgins. Therefore both were unaware of the closed probation. Why?

“God gives light to be cherished and obeyed, not to be despised and rejected. The light which he sends becomes darkness to those who disregard it. When the Spirit of God ceases to impress the truth upon the hearts of men, all hearing is vain, and all preaching also is vain.” —*The Spirit of Prophecy Vol. 4*, p. 231.

The Consummation

He that soweth iniquity shall reap vanity; and with the rod of his anger he shall be consumed. Proverbs 22:8

OBJECTIVES

- To learn that God's wrath when He metes out punishment during the final consummation constitutes His releasing of the wicked to destroy themselves.
- To observe the culmination of God's orchestration in Daniel 11, namely, the final orchestration of nations in war.
- To see that God's wrath is His grief over the unrelenting resistance of the wicked to His gifts of mercy to save.

WHEN GOD DESTROYS

- 1. In the light of our study of the long history of God's orchestration of the nations of earth with their wicked invasions and wars, what will God finally do? Isa. 42:13-15. What is meant by this? Hag. 2:21, 22**

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

harmony with God that His very presence is to them a consuming fire. The glory of Him who is love will destroy them.” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 764.

2. As each nation was tested regarding their responses to God’s overtures of love to them, how will their resistance to this play back on them? Ps. 9:15-17; Prov. 22:8 (margin)

“God in his infinite mercy bears long with the transgressors of his law. In the days of Abraham, he declared that the idolatrous Amorites should still be spared until the fourth generation; for their iniquity was not yet full, and he could not give command for their destruction. For more than four hundred years he spared them, but when, instead of turning to repentance, they hardened their hearts in iniquity, and made war upon his people, their day of probation closed, and the mandate went forth for their utter extinction. With unerring accuracy, the Infinite One keeps a record of the impiety of nations and individuals. Long is his mercy tendered to them, with calls to repentance; but when their guilt reaches a certain limit, which he has fixed, then mercy ceases her pleadings, and the ministration of wrath begins.” —*Sketches from the Life of Paul*, p. 318.

3. What is God’s wrath? Mark 3:5 (1st part)

“Jesus halted, and a cloud of sorrow gathered upon His countenance, and the multitude were astonished to see Him burst into an agony of weeping. Those who surrounded the Saviour could not understand His grief; but He wept for the city that was doomed. It had been the child of His care, and His heart was filled with anguish as He realized that it would soon be made desolate. Had her people given heed to Christ's teaching, and received Him as the Saviour, Jerusalem would have "stood forever." She might have become the queen of kingdoms, free in the strength of her God-given power. There would then have been no armed soldiers waiting at her gates,

no Roman banners waving from her walls. From Jerusalem the dove of peace would have gone to all nations. She would have been the crowning glory of the world. But the Jews had rejected their Saviour; they were about to crucify their King. And when the sun should set that night, the doom of Jerusalem would be forever sealed. (About forty years afterward, Jerusalem was utterly destroyed and burned with fire by the Roman army.)” —*The Story of Jesus*, p. 86.

4. How is this expression of Daniel 12:1 addressed in other scriptures? Rev. 11:18, 19; Dan. 9:27 (last half), “desolate” to be read as “desolator”; Rev. 15:5-16:1

5. How is this consummation/time of trouble/God’s wrath a testimony of the truth described in questions 1 to 3? Hag. 2:22 (last phrase); Jer. 25:15, 30-33

“No such message [of the coming of Christ] has ever been given in past ages. Paul, as we have seen, did not preach it; he pointed his brethren into the then far-distant future for the coming of the Lord. The Reformers did not proclaim it. Martin Luther placed the judgment about three hundred years in the future from his day. But since 1798 the book of Daniel has been unsealed, knowledge of the prophecies has increased, and many have proclaimed the solemn message of the judgment near.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 356.

MICHAEL’S CLOSING WORK

6. As Michael (Christ), with Gabriel, was impacting the nations, what was the most powerful impact that, being scorned by the

**wicked, will impact them in the consummation? Isa. 63:1-6 i.e.
Dan. 9:27**

“The great matter to be decided in the conflict was not merely between God and man; every creature that God had created was involved in the conflict. The unfallen worlds saw that the character of God could be vindicated only through this trial and conflict of the two forces. The attributes of God must be made to appear. Of the stability of his government there must be no question. And the Son of God himself proposed to carry forward the work to the end, to gain the victory over the prince of darkness and over all his allies.” —*The Youth Instructor*, Apr. 15, 1897.

7. In the light of Isaiah 63 of the previous question, can we see Christ staining His apparel in the description of Him treading the wine press of God’s wrath? Rev. 19:11-21

“Every soul has a heaven to win, and a hell to shun. And the angelic agencies are all ready to come to the help of the tried and tempted soul. He, the Son of the infinite God, endured the test and trial in our behalf. The cross of Calvary stands vividly before every soul. When the cases of all are judged, and they [the lost] are delivered to suffer for their contempt for God and their disregard of His honor in their disobedience, not one will have an excuse, not one will need to have perished. It was left to their own choice who should be their prince, Christ or Satan. All the help Christ received; every man may receive in the great trial. The cross stands as a pledge that not one need be lost, that abundant help is provided for every soul. We can conquer the satanic agencies, or we can join ourselves with the powers that seek to counterwork the work of God in our world.”
—*Selected Messages Book 1*, p. 96.

8. Arriving at the end of Christ's work, how will the nations who had anciently failed their test be included in the final war of self-destruction? Dan. 7:12; Jer. 25:12, 14, 15, 28, 29. How will Israel, the fig tree of nations, be included? Luke 21:29-32; Joel 3:9-16

MEDITATION

☞ Having seen how God has dealt with the nations throughout all history in reference to their wars of conquest and defeat, we have a clear comprehension of how He will orchestrate their final combined warfare and defeat for final annihilation.

We worship Him who only is love, as demonstrated in the gift of His Son, but who was so misunderstood by His opponents that He was turned to be their enemy.

We may come from the study of this lesson with a clear appreciation that God is not the destroyer, but an orchestrator of those that choose to be destroyers and who will inevitably destroy themselves and each other in their warfare against God.