

MAY 1ST

ASSIGNMENT FOR MAY 8:

Read *Prophets and Kings*, 280–301 in preparation for a test on May 8 covering these two chapters.

HIS PROPHETIC WORD IS TRUTH

“The history of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, as that of the Son of God, cannot be fully demonstrated without the evidence contained in the Old Testament. Christ is revealed in the Old Testament as clearly as in the New. The one testifies of a Saviour to come, while the other testifies of a Saviour that has come in **the manner predicted by the prophets**. In order to appreciate the plan of redemption, the Scripture of the Old Testament must be thoroughly understood. It is **the glorified light from the prophetic past** that brings out the life of Christ and the teachings of the New Testament with clearness and beauty. The miracles of Jesus are a proof of his divinity; but **the strongest proofs that he is the world’s Redeemer are found in the prophecies of the Old Testament compared with the history of the New**. Jesus said to the Jews ‘Search **the Scriptures**; for in them ye think ye have eternal life, and **they are they which testify of me.**’ At that time there was no other scripture in existence save that of the Old Testament; so the injunction of the Saviour is plain.” *Spirit of Prophecy*, volume 3, 211.

THE EVERLASTING GOSPEL

“The message proclaimed by the angel flying in the midst of heaven is the everlasting gospel, the same gospel that was declared in Eden when God said to the serpent, ‘I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.’” *Selected Messages*, book 2, 106—Genesis 3:15.

A PROPHECY

“The spirit which put Christ to death moves the wicked to destroy His followers. All this is foreshadowed in **that first prophecy**: ‘I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed.’ And this will continue to the close of time.” *The Great Controversy*, 507.

THE GOSPEL

“**The first gospel sermon** was preached in Eden, when God said to the serpent, ‘I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.’” *Youth Instructor*, February 22, 1900.

EVERLASTING

“Cain and Abel represent two classes that will exist in the world till the close of time.” *Patriarchs & Prophets*, 72.

A TEST

“Cain and Abel, the sons of Adam, differed widely in character. . . .

“**These brothers were tested, as Adam had been tested before them, to prove whether they would believe and obey the word of God.**” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 71.

DEVELOPED

“Cain and Abel are given us in Bible history to represent the two orders in humanity. Abel was **faithful and loyal** to God, and he was preferred by the Lord. Cain was **disloyal**; he wished his own ideas to prevail. Abel protested against these principles as disloyal. But as the eldest, Cain thought that his methods and plans should have the supremacy. It made him very angry that Abel would not concede to his views, and his anger burned so hotly that he killed his brother. **Here the two principles of right and wrong are developed.**” *Review and Herald*, September 14, 1897.

MANIFESTED

“The murder of Abel was **the first example of the enmity** . . . And wherever there are any who will stand in vindication of the righteousness of the law of God, the same spirit will be **manifested** against them.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 77.

ENMITY

“The enmity put between the seed of the serpent and the seed of the woman was **supernatural.**” *Selected Messages*, book 1, 254. Philippians 2:5; Romans 8:6–7.

SANCTIFY THEM THROUGH THY WORD

“**‘They are they that testify of Me,**’—of the Redeemer, Him in whom our hopes of eternal life are centered. The prayer of Christ for His disciples was, ‘Sanctify them through Thy truth; Thy word is truth.’ **If we are to be sanctified through the truth,** we must have an intelligent knowledge of God’s will as revealed in His word. We must search the Scriptures, not merely rush through a chapter, taking no pains to understand it; but we must dig for the jewel of truth, which will enrich the mind and the soul.” *Bible Echo*, October 22, 1894.

THE PHARISEE AND THE PUBLICAN

“The Pharisee and the publican represent two great classes into which those who come to worship God are divided. Their first two representatives are found in the first two children that were born into the world.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 152.

PETER THE PHARISEE

“For each of the classes represented by the Pharisee and the publican there is a lesson in the history of the apostle Peter. In his early discipleship Peter thought himself strong. Like the Pharisee, in his own estimation he was ‘not as other men are.’ When Christ on the eve of His betrayal forewarned His disciples, ‘All ye shall be offended because of Me this night,’ Peter confidently declared, ‘Although all shall be offended, yet will not I.’ Mark 14:27, 29. Peter did not know his own danger. Self-confidence misled him. He thought himself able to withstand temptation; but in a few short hours the test came, and with cursing and swearing he denied his Lord.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 152.

THRICE TESTED

Mark 14:29, 30

PROGRESSIVE

“Peter’s fall was not instantaneous, but gradual.” *A New Life*, 41.

PETER THE PUBLICAN

“At the last meeting of Christ with His disciples by the sea, Peter, tested by **the thrice-repeated question**, ‘Lovest thou Me?’ (John 21:15–17), had been restored to his place among the Twelve.” *Acts of the Apostles*, 515.

THREE TESTS

“Self-confidence led him [Peter] to the belief that he was saved, and step after step was taken in the downward path, until he could deny his Master. . . . Everyone should be taught to cherish hope and faith; but even when we give ourselves to Christ and know that He accepts us, we are not beyond the reach of temptation. God’s word declares, ‘**Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried.**’ **Daniel 12:10.** Only he who endures the trial will receive the crown of life. (James 1:12.)” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 154, 155.

PURIFIED, MADE WHITE, AND TRIED

THE MILLERITES

Daniel 12:3, 4, 9, 10; Hosea 4:6

**FIRST MESSAGE: PURIFIED
SECOND MESSAGE: MADE WHITE
THIRD MESSAGE: TRIED**

John 16:8

**SIN; FIRST ANGEL’S MESSAGE; PURIFIED
RIGHTEOUSNESS; SECOND ANGEL’S MESSAGE; MADE WHITE
JUDGMENT; THIRD ANGEL’S MESSAGE; TRIED**

Psalm 77:13

**COURTYARD; SIN; FIRST ANGEL’S MESSAGE; PURIFIED
HOLY PLACE; RIGHTEOUSNESS; SECOND ANGEL’S MESSAGE; MADE WHITE
MOST HOLY PLACE; JUDGMENT; THIRD ANGEL’S MESSAGE; TRIED**

**JUSTIFICATION; COURTYARD; SIN; FIRST MESSAGE; PURIFIED
SANCTIFICATION; HOLY PLACE; RIGHTEOUSNESS; SECOND MESSAGE; MADE WHITE
GLORIFICATION; MOST HOLY PLACE; JUDGMENT; THIRD MESSAGE; TRIED**

CHRIST'S PARABLES

“Revelation is not the creation or invention of something new, but **the manifestation of what was, until revealed, unknown to human beings**. The great and eternal truths contained in the **gospel** are revealed through diligent searching and humbling of ourselves before God. The divine Teacher leads the mind of the humble seeker for truth; and by the Holy Spirit's guidance, **the truths of the Word** are made known to him. And there can be no more certain and efficient way of knowledge than in being thus guided. The promise of the Saviour was, ‘When he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all **truth**.’ It is through the impartation of the Holy Spirit that we are made to **understand the Word of God**.

“The psalmist writes, ‘Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word. With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments. . . . Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.’

“We are admonished to seek for the truth as for hid treasure. **The Lord opens the understanding of the true seeker after truth**; and the Holy Spirit enables him to grasp **the truths of revelation**. This is what the psalmist means when he asks that his eyes may be opened to behold wondrous things out of the law. When the soul pants after the excellencies of Jesus Christ, the mind is enabled to grasp the glories of the better world. Only by the aid of the divine Teacher can we understand **the truths of the Word of God. In Christ's school we learn to be meek and lowly because there is given to us an understanding of the mysteries of godliness**.

“He who inspired the Word was the true expositor of the Word. Christ illustrated his teachings by calling the attention of his hearers to the simple laws of nature, and to the familiar objects which they daily saw and handled. Thus he led their minds **from the natural to the spiritual**. Many failed of grasping at once **the meaning of his parables**; but as they day by day came in contact with the objects with which the Great Teacher had associated spiritual truths, some discerned the lessons of divine truth he had sought to impress, and these were convinced of the truth of his mission and converted to the **gospel**.” *Sabbath School Worker*, December 1, 1909.

“Leading thus from the natural to the spiritual kingdom, Christ's parables are links in the chain of truth that unites man with God, and earth with heaven.” *Christ's Object Lessons*, 17.

“I am often referred to the parable of the ten virgins, five of whom were wise, and five foolish. **This parable has been and will be fulfilled to the very letter**, for it has a special application to this time, and, like the third angel's message, has been fulfilled and will continue to be present truth till the close of time.” *Review and Herald*, August 19, 1890.

“The parable of the ten virgins of Matthew 25 also **illustrates the experience of the Adventist people**.” *The Great Controversy*, 393.

THE CLOSED DOOR

“Many who went forth to meet the Bridegroom under the messages of the first and second angels, refused the third angel's message, **the last testing message** to be given to the world. . . .

“The parable of the ten virgins was given by Christ Himself, and every specification should be carefully studied. **A time will come when the door will be shut**.” *Manuscript Releases*, volume 16, 270.

THE THIRD TEST

“Again, these parables teach that there is to be **no probation after the judgment**. When the work of the gospel is completed, there immediately follows the separation between the good and the evil, and the destiny of each class is forever fixed.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 123.

WHEAT & TARES

“Let both tares and wheat grow together until **the harvest**. Then it is **the angels that do the work of separation**.” *Selected Messages*, book 2, 69.

“I then saw **the third angel**. Said my accompanying angel, ‘Fearful is his word, awful is his mission. **He is the angel that is to select the wheat from the tares, and seal or bind the wheat for the heavenly garner**.’ These things should engage the whole mind, the whole attention. Again I was shown the necessity of those who believe we are having the last message of mercy, being separate from those who are daily receiving or imbibing new error. I saw that neither young nor old should attend the assemblies of those who are in error and darkness. Said the angel, ‘Let the mind cease to dwell on things of no profit.’” *Manuscript Releases*, volume 5, 425.

JUDAS

“In surprise and confusion at the exposure of his purpose, **Judas** rose hastily to leave the room. ‘Then said Jesus unto him, That thou doest, do quickly. . . . He then having received the sop went immediately out: and **it was night**.’ Night it was to the traitor as he turned away from Christ into the outer darkness.

“Until **this step was taken, Judas had not passed beyond the possibility of repentance**. But when he left the presence of his Lord and his fellow disciples, **the final decision** had been made. **He had passed the boundary line**.

“Wonderful had been the long-suffering of Jesus in His dealing with this tempted soul. Nothing that could be done to save Judas had been left undone. **After he had twice covenanted to betray his Lord, Jesus still gave him opportunity for repentance**. By reading the secret purpose of the traitor’s heart, Christ gave to Judas **the final, convincing evidence of His divinity**. This was to the false disciple **the last call to repentance**. No appeal that the divine-human heart of Christ could make had been spared. The waves of mercy, beaten back by stubborn pride, returned in a stronger tide of subduing love. But although surprised and alarmed at the discovery of his guilt, **Judas** became only the more determined. From the sacramental supper he went out to complete the work of betrayal.

“In pronouncing the woe upon Judas, Christ also had a purpose of mercy toward His disciples. He thus gave them **the crowning evidence of His Messiahship**. ‘**I tell you before it come**,’ He said, ‘**that, when it is come to pass, ye may believe that I AM**.’ Had Jesus remained silent, in apparent ignorance of what was to come upon Him, the disciples might have thought that their Master had not **divine foresight**, and had been surprised and betrayed into the hands of the murderous mob. **A year before, Jesus had told the disciples that He had chosen twelve, and that one was a devil**. Now His words to Judas, showing that his treachery was fully known to his Master, would strengthen the faith of Christ’s true followers during His humiliation. And when Judas should have come to his dreadful end, they would remember the woe that Jesus had pronounced upon the betrayer.” *The Desire of Ages*, 653–655.

REVEALED IN HIS TIME

Let no man deceive you by any means: for *that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first*, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?

And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. For **the mystery of iniquity doth already work**: only he who now letteth *will let*, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming. 2 Thessalonians 2:3–8.

FALLING FROM THE PATH

“In the days of the apostle Paul, the Thessalonian brethren were laboring under the erroneous impression that the Lord would return in their day, and Paul wrote to correct this false impression, stating **what events must transpire before the advent could take place**. He declared: ‘Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshiped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.’ The man of sin was to arise, and do his work of exaltation and blasphemy, before the brethren could look for the coming of Christ. That great event was to be preceded by **a falling away**. **There would be revealed a form of Antichrist, and the leaven of apostasy was to work with increasing power to the end of time**. We are not to be surprised beyond measure to see the widespread declension of faith and piety. **I have been bearing my testimony for the last forty years, that there would be those who would fall away from the path cast up for the ransomed of the Lord to walk in**. God has been sending warnings, reproofs, and encouragements to his people. He has warned them that some would depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits.” *Review and Herald*, July 31, 1888.

THE MYSTERY OF INIQUITY DOTH ALREADY WORK

“But Judas had opened the door of his heart, the chambers of his mind, to the temptations of Satan. And the enemy sowed in his heart and mind **the seed which he communicated to his brethren**. The questioning doubts which were passed on to the minds of his brethren. This one man, professing to be a follower of Christ, while not bearing the precious fruit revealed in the life of Christ, would be **a channel of darkness to the other disciples in the time of test and trial that was soon to come**, and that was even then upon them. He presented so much accusation of his brethren that he was counterworking the lessons of Christ. This is why Jesus called **Judas a devil**.” *Review and Herald*, November 16, 1897.

“The angelic host who watched the scenes in the betrayal and crucifixion of Christ, knew that it was **Satan who entered into Judas and led him to betray Christ into the hands of the murderous mob**; they knew, too, that it was he who impelled the throng to cry out, ‘Crucify him; crucify him;’ and ‘**release unto us Barabbas**.’ **Satan has now revealed his true character as a liar and a murderer**. It is seen that the very same spirit with which he ruled the children of men who were under his power, he would manifest if permitted to control the intelligences of heaven. The question is settled in all the worlds that there is no place for him in all their dominions.” *Review and Herald*, March 9, 1886.

JUDAS

“Instead of walking in the light, Judas chose to retain his defects. Evil desires, revengeful passions, dark and sullen thoughts, were cherished, until Satan had full control of the man. **Judas became a representative of the enemy of Christ.**” *The Desire of Ages*, 295.

BARABBAS

“The people of Israel had made their choice. Pointing to Jesus they had said, ‘Not this man, but Barabbas.’ Barabbas, the robber and murderer, was **the representative of Satan.**” *The Desire of Ages*, 738.

PAGAN ROME

“Thus while **the dragon, primarily, represents Satan**, it is, in a secondary sense, a symbol of **pagan Rome.**” *The Great Controversy*, 439.

THE BISHOP OF ROME

“To secure worldly gains and honors, the church was led to seek the favor and support of the great men of earth; and having thus rejected Christ, she was induced to yield allegiance to **the representative of Satan—the bishop of Rome.**” *The Great Controversy*, 50.

“Unsanctified ministers are arraying themselves against God. **They are praising Christ and the god of this world in the same breath.** While professedly they receive Christ, they embrace Barabbas, and by their actions say, ‘Not this Man, but Barabbas.’ Let all who read these lines, take heed. Satan has made his boast of what he can do. He thinks to dissolve the unity which Christ prayed might exist in His church. He says, ‘I will go forth and be a lying spirit to deceive those that I can, to **criticize, and condemn, and falsify.**’ Let the son of deceit and false witness be entertained by **a church that has had great light, great evidence, and that church will discard the message the Lord has sent**, and receive the most unreasonable assertions and false suppositions and false theories. Satan laughs at their folly, for he knows what truth is.

“**Many will** stand in our pulpits with the torch of false prophecy in their hands, kindled from the hellish torch of Satan. If doubts and unbelief are cherished, **the faithful ministers will be removed from the people who think they know so much.** ‘If thou hadst known,’ said Christ, ‘even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes.’” *Testimonies to Ministers*, 409.

“And I saw that **there were some like Judas** among those who profess to be waiting for their Lord. **Satan controls them, but they know it not.**” *Early Writings*, 268.

“**Judas had had great light**; he had had many **opportunities** to understand what were the requirements of God. Numbered among the twelve, he had listened to the lessons of Christ; he had heard the truth, and he had no excuse for failing to form a character after the likeness of Christ...

“**In this age**, if those who come under the precious influence of the truth do not become transformed in character, they will, **like Judas**, go from light to darkness; and how great will be their darkness.” *Signs of the Times*, July 18, 1895.

“Among the chosen disciples of Christ there was **a representative of Satan**. . . .

“**All the way along in the history of the third angel’s message** there have been found among the believers men who have done much harm to God’s cause. These men are spots in our feasts of charity; **tares among the wheat; wolves among the sheep**, ready to bite and devour. Delighting to bear false witness, they cruelly injure the reputation of others. Every such one will be rewarded ‘according to his works.’ God ‘hath appointed **a day**, in the which he will **judge** the world.’ **Then will be made the separation between the wheat and the tares.** In that day **it will be clearly revealed** that those who seek to destroy the reputation of God’s servants are hypocrites. By their own lips will be borne the testimony that will clear from suspicion those against whom they have reported evil.” *Review and Herald*, May 12, 1903.