50 DAYS TRANSFORMED BY
THE BOOK - WORKBOOK
www.50Days.ca

Requests for information
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Pictures and Illustrations
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No book has been so loved, so hated, so revered and so damned as the Bible. People have died for the Bible. Others have killed for it. It has inspired man’s greatest, noblest acts, and been blamed for his most damnable and degenerate acts. Wars have raged over the Bible, revolutions have been nurtured in its pages, and kingdoms crumbled through its ideas. People of all viewpoints—from liberation theologians to capitalists, from fascists to Marxists, from dictators to liberators, from pacifists to militarists—search its pages for words with which to justify their deeds.

The Bible’s uniqueness does not come from its unparalleled political, cultural, and social influence, but from its source and its subject matter. It is God’s revelation of the unique God-man: the Son of God, Jesus Christ—the Saviour of the world.” (Seventh-day Adventists Believe, p. 15)

Fasten your seat belt. You are about to start a wonderful journey through the Divine Revelation: “50 Days Transformed by the Book”. My wish is that the Book of God, the Bible, will occupy a very special place in your life in the next 50 days, and hopefully such an experience will impact your life forever. During these 7 weeks that we will dwell in the Book together, I hope you will “Pray It In, Read It Through, Live It Out and Pass It On”. No doubt you will be transformed by this exposure to the Scriptures, because they are the Word of God. When the Creator and Maintainer of Life speaks, miracles happen. Prepare yourself to receive the blessings that are meant for those who open the Holy Scriptures.

I organized this material with prayer. I appealed to God constantly, so everyone who used this workbook would have his or her life impacted by the Word of God.

IN ORDER FOR YOU TO TAKE THE GREATEST ADVANTAGE OF THIS MATERIAL, HERE IS SOME GUIDANCE

I selected and organized 50 devotions written by Ellen G. White about the Word of God. Read one per day! I encourage you to set apart a specific time and location to seek the Lord daily.

Don’t forget to pray before your daily study of the Word of God along with this workbook. It is essential to have the help of the Holy Spirit to guide us through the Scriptures. Before each devotional you will find a prayer moment. Each devotional presents a different list of prayer requests, which you may choose to pray for, in addition to your own petitions and intercessory prayer.

In order to help you develop a special prayer experience during these 50 Days, you will find a few pages at the end of this workbook to be used as a Prayer Journal. I encourage each of you to keep an organized record of the things you pray for, and how and when God answers them. List things you feel prompted to pray for and requests from family and friends.

Another important element of this project is the intercessory prayer for five specific individuals or families that are around you and haven’t accepted the 3 Angels’ Message yet. Boldly ask God to impress on you five individuals/families that He would like you to especially pray for on this journey.
Each week you will find a “Homework” assignment that challenges you to interact somehow with these five individuals/families you are praying for. We must pray for them, but we cannot neglect our actions and efforts to reach them. Embrace these tasks seriously.

Another weekly assignment of the 50 Days Transformed by the Book is the memorization of verses from the Bible. At the end of the project, you will have hidden in your heart seven bible texts – a verse per week – it is not impossible to accomplish it, right?

Also choose your systematic plan for reading the Bible. We are making available 6 Reading Bible Plans for the 50 days - (1) The Gospel of John; (2) The Book of Proverbs; (3) The Book of Psalms; (4) The Four Gospels; (5) The New Testament; and (6) The Whole Bible. Choose the one that best fits your life right now. Do not waste the opportunity to be blessed each day.

I CANNOT FORGET TO MENTION THE OTHER ELEMENTS THAT ARE PART OF YOUR DAY-TO-DAY USE OF THIS WORKBOOK

- Quote of the Day – Each day you will come across someone’s thoughts about the Book of God.
- Did You Know? – Curiosities and interesting facts about the Bible.
- Going Deeper – Concepts, definitions, ideas and important suggestions about the Scriptures.
- Question – A brief question that aims to help you grow in the Word of God.
- In Letters of Gold – In one of her first visions, Ellen G. White saw “in letters of gold the chapter and verse of fifty texts of Scripture”. Well, we do not know the reason these 50 Bible verses were picked, but who knows, maybe one of them will have a special meaning in your life in a specific way. For this reason, do not forget to read one verse per day. More of this vision can be found below. *

Given this is the first time we are having a project such as this in our community, I am certain that we have a lot to learn and improve. That is why, if you have any opinions and/or suggestions, do not hesitate to contact me so we can grow together in future projects.

May God richly bless you in these “50 Days Transformed by the Book”!

*Ellen White’s vision about the 50 Biblical Verses: “All these things weighed heavily upon my spirits, and in the confusion I was sometimes tempted to doubt my own experience. While at family prayers one morning, the power of God began to rest upon me, and the thought rushed into my mind that it was mesmerism, and I resisted it. Immediately I was struck dumb and for a few moments was lost to everything around me. I then saw my sin in doubting the power of God, and that for so doing I was struck dumb, and that my tongue would be loosed in less than twenty-four hours. A card was held up before me, on which were written in letters of gold the chapter and verse of fifty texts of Scripture. After I came out of vision, I beckoned for the slate, and wrote upon it that I was dumb, also what I had seen, and that I wished the large Bible. I took the Bible and readily turned to all the texts that I had seen upon the card. I was unable to speak all day. Early the next morning my soul was filled with joy, and my tongue was loosed to shout the high praises of God. After that I dared not doubt or for a moment resist the power of God, however others might think of me. Early Writings, p.22
I, ___________________________________________________________ commit
to dedicating a special moment of my day to intercede for the following names during the next 50 days:

1. _________________________________________________________________

2. _________________________________________________________________

3. _________________________________________________________________

4. _________________________________________________________________

5. _________________________________________________________________

I commit to God and my religious community, to pray regularly for the items suggested daily under “Moments of Prayer.” I am also willing to pray that Christ reach the five individuals/families listed above. I believe that our loving Father wants us to pray for one another and wants us to intercede fervently for the sheep that have gone astray from the Good Shepherd’s fold. I will not be a passive listener of my neighbours’ prayers. Rather, I choose to be an active intercessor, with a burning desire to help, through prayer, carry my neighbours’ burdens and free many from Satan’s bondage.

I acknowledge and take the responsibility in Christ to be His witness to my family, friends, neighbors, and all those with whom God puts me in contact. I acknowledge it is my duty to tell these people about Jesus, doing my best to lead them to Christ’s feet and help them to consolidate their lives and accept Jesus as their personal Lord and Saviour.

In committing to this, I am also willing and desire to become more like Jesus, by means of daily communion with Him and the acceptance of this calling to be a fisher of men for God’s kingdom.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Books Referenced</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 31, 2015</td>
<td>Gen 1–19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 1, 2015</td>
<td>Gen 20–34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 2, 2015</td>
<td>Gen 35–50, Exod 1–7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 3, 2015</td>
<td>Exod 8–26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 5, 2015</td>
<td>Lev 6–27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 6, 2015</td>
<td>Num 1–13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 7, 2015</td>
<td>Num 14–36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 8, 2015</td>
<td>Deut 1–17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 9, 2015</td>
<td>Deut 18–34, Josh 1–5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 10, 2015</td>
<td>Josh 6–24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 11, 2015</td>
<td>Judg 1–21, Ruth 1–4, 1 Sam 1–6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 12, 2015</td>
<td>1 Sam 7–31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 13, 2015</td>
<td>2 Sam 1–24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 14, 2015</td>
<td>1 Kings 1–12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 15, 2015</td>
<td>1 Kings 13–22, 2 Kings 1–9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 16, 2015</td>
<td>2 Kings 10–25, 1 Chron 1–4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 17, 2015</td>
<td>1 Chron 5–29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 18, 2015</td>
<td>2 Chron 1–24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 19, 2015</td>
<td>2 Chron 25–36, Ezra 1–10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 20, 2015</td>
<td>Neh 1–13, Esther 1–10, Job 1–4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 21, 2015</td>
<td>Job 5–24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 22, 2015</td>
<td>Job 25–42, Ps 1–17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 23, 2015</td>
<td>Ps 18–50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 24, 2015</td>
<td>Ps 51–92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 25, 2015</td>
<td>Ps 93–119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 26, 2015</td>
<td>Ps 120–150, Prov 1–7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 27, 2015</td>
<td>Prov 8–31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 28, 2015</td>
<td>Eccles 1–12, Song 1–8, Isa 1–7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 29, 2015</td>
<td>Isa 8–34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 30, 2015</td>
<td>Isa 35–66, Jer 1–3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 1, 2015</td>
<td>Jer 4–25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 2, 2015</td>
<td>Jer 26–52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 3, 2015</td>
<td>Lam 1–5, Ezek 1–17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 4, 2015</td>
<td>Ezek 18–37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 5, 2015</td>
<td>Ezek 38–48, Dan 1–12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 6, 2015</td>
<td>Hos 1–14, Joel 1–3, Amos 1–9, Obad, Jonah 1–4, Micah 1–7, Nah 1–3, Hab 1–3, Zeph 1–3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 7, 2015</td>
<td>Haggai 1–2, Zech 1–14, Mal 1–4, Matt 1–8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 8, 2015</td>
<td>Matt 9–22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 9, 2015</td>
<td>Matt 23–28, Mark 1–10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 11, 2015</td>
<td>Luke 7–20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 12, 2015</td>
<td>Luke 21–24, John 1–11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 13, 2015</td>
<td>John 12–21, Acts 1–5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 14, 2015</td>
<td>Acts 6–21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 15, 2015</td>
<td>Acts 22–28, Rom 1–16, 1 Cor 1–3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 16, 2015</td>
<td>1 Cor 4–16, 2 Cor 1–13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 17, 2015</td>
<td>Gal 1–6, Eph 1–6, Phil 1–4, Col 1–4, 1 Thess 1–5, 2 Thess 1–3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 18, 2015</td>
<td>1 Tim 1–6, 2 Tim 1–4, Titus 1–3, Philem, Heb 1–13, James 1–5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 19, 2015</td>
<td>1 John 1–5, 2 John, 3 John, Jude, Rev 1–22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Books</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 31, 2015</td>
<td>Matt 1–5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 1, 2015</td>
<td>Matt 6–9</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 2, 2015</td>
<td>Matt 10–13</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 3, 2015</td>
<td>Matt 14–17</td>
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<td>November 4, 2015</td>
<td>Matt 18–21</td>
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<td>November 5, 2015</td>
<td>Matt 22–25</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 6, 2015</td>
<td>Matt 26–28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 7, 2015</td>
<td>Mark 1–4</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 8, 2015</td>
<td>Mark 5–8</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 9, 2015</td>
<td>Mark 9–12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 10, 2015</td>
<td>Mark 13–16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 11, 2015</td>
<td>Luke 1–2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 12, 2015</td>
<td>Luke 3–6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 13, 2015</td>
<td>Luke 7–9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 14, 2015</td>
<td>Luke 10–12</td>
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<td>November 15, 2015</td>
<td>Luke 13–17</td>
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<td>November 16, 2015</td>
<td>Luke 18–21</td>
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<td>November 17, 2015</td>
<td>Luke 22–24</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 18, 2015</td>
<td>John 1–4</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 19, 2015</td>
<td>John 5–6</td>
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<td>November 20, 2015</td>
<td>John 7–9</td>
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<td>John 10–12</td>
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<td>November 22, 2015</td>
<td>John 13–17</td>
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<td>November 23, 2015</td>
<td>John 18–21</td>
</tr>
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<td>November 24, 2015</td>
<td>Acts 1–5</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 25, 2015</td>
<td>Acts 6–9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Acts 10–13</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 27, 2015</td>
<td>Acts 14–18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 28, 2015</td>
<td>Acts 19–22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 29, 2015</td>
<td>Acts 23–28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 30, 2015</td>
<td>Rom 1–5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 1, 2015</td>
<td>Rom 6–10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 2, 2015</td>
<td>Rom 11–16</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 3, 2015</td>
<td>1 Cor 1–8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 4, 2015</td>
<td>1 Cor 9–14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 5, 2015</td>
<td>1 Cor 15–16, 2 Cor 1–4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 6, 2015</td>
<td>2 Cor 5–13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 7, 2015</td>
<td>Gal 1–6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 8, 2015</td>
<td>Eph 1–6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 9, 2015</td>
<td>Phil 1–4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 10, 2015</td>
<td>Col 1–4, 1 Thess 1–5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 11, 2015</td>
<td>2 Thess 1–3, 1 Tim 1–6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 12, 2015</td>
<td>2 Tim 1–4, Titus 1–3, Philem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 13, 2015</td>
<td>Heb 1–9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 14, 2015</td>
<td>Heb 10–13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 15, 2015</td>
<td>James 1–5, 1 Pet 1–5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 16, 2015</td>
<td>2 Pet 1–3, 1 John 1–5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 17, 2015</td>
<td>2 John, 3 John, Jude, Rev 1–3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 18, 2015</td>
<td>Rev 4–13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 19, 2015</td>
<td>Rev 14–22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Books</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 31, 2015</td>
<td>Matt 1–4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 1, 2015</td>
<td>Matt 5–6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 2, 2015</td>
<td>Matt 7–8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 3, 2015</td>
<td>Matt 9–10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 4, 2015</td>
<td>Matt 11–12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 5, 2015</td>
<td>Matt 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 6, 2015</td>
<td>Matt 14–15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 7, 2015</td>
<td>Matt 16–18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 8, 2015</td>
<td>Matt 19–20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 9, 2015</td>
<td>Matt 21–22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 11, 2015</td>
<td>Matt 24:29–25:46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 12, 2015</td>
<td>Matt 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 13, 2015</td>
<td>Matt 27–28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 14, 2015</td>
<td>Mark 1–2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 15, 2015</td>
<td>Mark 3–4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 16, 2015</td>
<td>Mark 5:1–6:13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 17, 2015</td>
<td>Mark 6:14–7:37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 18, 2015</td>
<td>Mark 8–9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 19, 2015</td>
<td>Mark 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 20, 2015</td>
<td>Mark 11–12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 21, 2015</td>
<td>Mark 13:1–14:42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 22, 2015</td>
<td>Mark 14:43–16:20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 23, 2015</td>
<td>Luke 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 24, 2015</td>
<td>Luke 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 25, 2015</td>
<td>Luke 3–4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 4, 2015</td>
<td>Luke 18–19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 5, 2015</td>
<td>Luke 20–21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 6, 2015</td>
<td>Luke 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 7, 2015</td>
<td>Luke 23–24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 8, 2015</td>
<td>John 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 9, 2015</td>
<td>John 2–3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 10, 2015</td>
<td>John 4:1–5:17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 11, 2015</td>
<td>John 5:18–6:40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 12, 2015</td>
<td>John 6:41–7:53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 13, 2015</td>
<td>John 8–9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 14, 2015</td>
<td>John 10:1–11:46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 16, 2015</td>
<td>John 13–14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 17, 2015</td>
<td>John 15–17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 18, 2015</td>
<td>John 18–19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 19, 2015</td>
<td>John 20–21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Verses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 31, 2015</td>
<td>Ps 1–5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 1, 2015</td>
<td>Ps 6–9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 2, 2015</td>
<td>Ps 10–13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 3, 2015</td>
<td>Ps 14–17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 4, 2015</td>
<td>Ps 18–19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 5, 2015</td>
<td>Ps 20–22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 6, 2015</td>
<td>Ps 23–26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 7, 2015</td>
<td>Ps 27–30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 8, 2015</td>
<td>Ps 31–33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 9, 2015</td>
<td>Ps 34–35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 10, 2015</td>
<td>Ps 36–37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 11, 2015</td>
<td>Ps 38–40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 12, 2015</td>
<td>Ps 41–44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 13, 2015</td>
<td>Ps 45–48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 14, 2015</td>
<td>Ps 49–50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 15, 2015</td>
<td>Ps 51–54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 16, 2015</td>
<td>Ps 55–57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 17, 2015</td>
<td>Ps 58–61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 18, 2015</td>
<td>Ps 62–65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 19, 2015</td>
<td>Ps 66–68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 20, 2015</td>
<td>Ps 69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 21, 2015</td>
<td>Ps 70–72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 22, 2015</td>
<td>Ps 73–74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 23, 2015</td>
<td>Ps 75–77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 24, 2015</td>
<td>Ps 78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 25, 2015</td>
<td>Ps 79–81</td>
</tr>
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Before the entrance of sin, Adam enjoyed open communion with his Maker; but since man separated himself from God by transgression, the human race has been cut off from this high privilege. By the plan of redemption, however, a way has been opened whereby the inhabitants of the earth may still have connection with heaven. God has communicated with men by His Spirit, and divine light has been imparted to the world by revelations to His chosen servants.

During the first 2,500 years of human history, there was no written revelation. Those who have been taught of God communicated their knowledge to others, and it was handed down from father to son, through successive generations. The preparation of the written word began in the time of Moses. Inspired revelations were then embodied in an inspired book. This work continued during the long period of 1,600 years—from Moses, the historian of Creation and the law, to John, the recorder of the most sublime truths of the gospel.

The Bible points to God as its author; yet it was written by human hands; and in the varied style of its different books it presents the characteristics of the several writers. The truths revealed are all “given by inspiration of God” (2 Timothy 3:16); yet they are expressed in the words of men. The Infinite One by His Holy Spirit has shed light into the minds and hearts of His servants. He has given dreams and visions, symbols and figures; and those to
whom the truth was thus revealed have themselves embodied the thought in human language.

The Ten Commandments were spoken by God Himself, and were written by His own hand. They are of divine, and not of human composition. But the Bible, with its God-given truths expressed in the language of men, presents a union of the divine and the human. Such a union existed in the nature of Christ, who was the Son of God and the Son of man. Thus it is true of the Bible, as it was of Christ, that “the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us” (John 1:14).

Written in different ages by men who differed widely in rank and occupation, and in mental and spiritual endowments, the books of the Bible present a wide contrast in style, as well as a diversity in the nature of the subjects unfolded. Different forms of expression are employed by different writers; often the same truth is more strikingly presented by one than by another... And the truths thus revealed unite to form a perfect whole, adapted to meet the wants of men in all the circumstances and experiences of life (The Great Controversy, v, vi).

Ellen Gold White, Lift Him Up, pg. 117 – April 13

GOING DEEPER

The Holy Scriptures, Old and New Testaments, are the written Word of God, given by divine inspiration through holy men of God who spoke and wrote as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. In this Word, God has committed to man the knowledge necessary for salvation. The Holy Scriptures are the infallible revelation of His will. They are the standard of character, the test of experience, the authoritative revealer of doctrines, the trustworthy record of God’s acts in history. (2 Peter 1:20, 21; 2 Tim. 3:16, 17; Ps. 119:105; Prov. 30:5, 6; Isa. 8:20; John 17:17; 1 Thess. 2:13; Heb. 4:12.) — Fundamental Beliefs, 1 www.adventist.org

QUESTION...

How does God intend that His Book shall help us in this dark world of sin and death? Psalm 119:105

IN LETTERS OF GOLD

“And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their appointed time.” Luke 1:20

THIS WEEK’S HOMEWORK

1. Memorize: “Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.” Joshua 1:8

2. Choose five individuals/families to pray for.
This then is the message, which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. 1 John 1:5

MOMENTS OF PRAYER

☐ Pray for the items listed in your Prayer Journal
☐ Pray for the five individuals/families you chose
☐ Pray for God’s work in the North American Division of Seventh-Day Adventist Church
☐ Pray for God to provide you with opportunities to share the Gospel

Before the fall of Adam, not a cloud rested on the mind of our first parents to obscure their clear perception of the divine character of God. They were perfectly conformed to the will of God. A beautiful light, the light of God, surrounded them. Nature was their lesson book. The Lord instructed them in regard to the natural world and then left with them this open book that they might behold beauty in every object upon which their eyes should rest. The Lord visited the holy pair, and instructed them through the works of His hands.

The beauties of nature are an expression of the love of God for human intelligences, and in the Garden of Eden the existence of God was demonstrated in the objects of nature that surrounded our first parents. Every tree planted in the Garden spoke to them, saying that the invisible things of God were clearly seen, being understood by the things, which were made, even His eternal power and Godhead.

But while thus God could be discerned in nature, this affords no solid argument in favor of a perfect knowledge of God being revealed in nature to Adam and his posterity after the Fall. Nature could convey her lessons to man in his innocence, but sin and transgression brought a blight upon nature, and intervened between nature and nature’s
God. Had man never disobeyed his Creator, had he remained in his state of perfect rectitude, he could have understood and known God. But when man disobeyed God, he gave evidence that he believed the words of an apostate rather than the words of God....

Adam and Eve listened to the voice of the tempter, and sinned against God. The light, the garments of heavenly innocence, departed from these tried, deceived souls, and in parting with the garments of innocence, they drew about them the dark robes of ignorance of God. The clear and perfect light of innocence, which had hitherto surrounded them, had lightened everything, which they approached; but deprived of that heavenly light, the posterity of Adam could no longer trace the character of God in His created works.

Therefore, after the Fall, nature was not the only teacher of man. In order that the world might not remain in darkness, in eternal, spiritual night, the God of nature must meet man in Jesus Christ. The Son of God came to the world as a revelation of the Father. He was “the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.”

Ellen Gold White, The Upward Look, pg. 198 – July 3

GOING DEEPER
The problems of sin, guilt, and depravity had to be resolved; means of atonement, redemption, and reconciliation had to be provided. And now sin diminished man’s comprehension of general revelation, thus lessening its efficacy. Therefore, special revelation had to become remedial with respect to both man’s knowledge of and his relationship to God.

Millard J. Erickson, Christian Theology (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1985) 176

QUESTION...
How the Book was given to mankind? 2 Timothy 3:16

QUOTE OF THE DAY
“We account the scriptures of God to be the most sublime philosophy. I find more sure marks of authenticity in the Bible than in any profane history whatsoever.”

Isaac Newton, English Mathematician and Scientist

DID YOU KNOW?
When the Bible was first written, there were no chapters or verses as today. In fact, many of the early, handwritten manuscripts were written without spaces between the words! Stephen Langton divided the Bible into chapters about A.D. 1228. The Old Testament was divided into verses by R. Nathan in A.D. 1448, and Robert Stephanus divided the New Testament into verses in A.D. 1551. The first complete Bible with chapter and verse divisions was the Geneva Bible of A.D. 1560.

IN LETTERS OF GOLD
“All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you.” John 16:15

THIS WEEK’S HOMEWORK
1. Memorize: “Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.” Joshua 1:8
2. Choose five individuals/families to pray for.
LESSON BOOK FOR ALL MANKIND

For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. 2 Peter 1:21

MOMENTS OF PRAYER

☐ Pray for the items listed in your Prayer Journal
☐ Pray for the five individuals/families you chose
☐ Pray for God’s work in the Inter-American Division of Seventh-Day Adventist Church
☐ Pray for God to help you be an effective witness for him

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

The Bible points to God as its author; yet it was written by human hands; and in the varied style of its different books it presents the characteristics of the several writers. The truths revealed are all “given by inspiration of God” (2 Timothy 3:16); yet they are expressed in the words of men. The Infinite One by His Holy Spirit has shed light into the minds and hearts of His servants. He has given dreams and visions, symbols and figures; and those to whom the truth was thus revealed, have themselves embodied the thought in human language.

The Lord speaks to human beings in imperfect speech, in order that the degenerate senses, the dull, earthly perception, of earthly beings may comprehend His words. Thus is shown God’s condescension. He meets fallen human beings where they are. The Bible, perfect as it is in its simplicity, does not answer to the great ideas of God; for infinite ideas cannot be perfectly embodied in finite vehicles of thought. Instead of the expressions of the Bible being
exaggerated, as many people suppose, the strong expressions break down before the magnificence of the thought, though the penman selected the most expressive language through which to convey the truths of higher education.

God designed the Bible to be a lesson-book to all mankind, in childhood, youth, and manhood, and to be studied through all time. He gave His Word to men as a revelation of Himself.... It is the medium of communication between God and man.

Ellen Gold White, The Faith I Live By, pg. 10 – January 4

GOING DEEPER
Divine revelation was given by inspiration of God to “holy men of God” who were “moved by the Holy Spirit” (2 Peter 1:21). These revelations were embodied in human language with all its limitations and imperfections, yet they remained God’s testimony. God inspired men—not words. Were the prophets as passive as tape recorders that replay exactly what is recorded? In some instances writers were commanded to express the exact words of God, but in most cases God instructed them to describe to the best of their ability what they saw or heard. In these latter cases, the writers used their own language patterns and style. Paul observed that “the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets” (1 Cor.14:32). Genuine inspiration does not obliterate the prophet’s individuality, reason, integrity, or personality.


QUESTION...
Which specific example has Peter provided about Revelation and Inspiration in Acts 1:16?

IN LETTERS OF GOLD
“All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.” Acts 2:4

THIS WEEK’S HOMEWORK
1. Memorize: “Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.” Joshua 1:8
2. Choose five individuals/families to pray for.
ACCEPT THE BIBLE AS THE FOUNDATION OF ALL FAITH

For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope. Romans 15:4

MOMENTS OF PRAYER

☐ Pray for the items listed in your Prayer Journal
☐ Pray for the five individuals/families you chose
☐ Pray for God’s work in the Trans-European Division of Seventh-Day Adventist Church
☐ Pray for God protection over your life

The teachers of Israel were not sowing the seed of the Word of God. Christ’s work as a teacher of truth was in marked contrast to that of the rabbis of His time. They dwelt upon traditions, upon human theories and speculations. Often that which mortals had taught and written about the Word, they put in place of the Word itself. Their teaching had no power to quicken the soul.

The subject of Christ’s teaching and preaching was the Word of God. He met questioners with a plain “It is written.” “What does Scripture say?” “How do you read it?” At every opportunity, when an interest was awakened by either friend or foe, He sowed the seed of the Word. He who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, Himself the living Word, points to the Scriptures, saying, “They are they which testify of me” (John 5:39). And “beginning at Moses and all the prophets,” He opened to His disciples “in all the scriptures the things concerning himself” (Luke 24:27).

Christ’s servants are to do the same work. In our day, as of old, the vital truths of God’s Word are set aside for human theories and speculations. Many professed ministers of the gospel do not accept the whole Bible as the inspired Word. One wise person rejects one portion; another questions another part. They set up their judgment as superi-
or to the Word; and the Scripture which they do teach rests upon their own authority. Its divine authenticity is destroyed. Thus the seeds of infidelity are sown broadcast; for the people become confused and know not what to believe. There are many beliefs that the mind has no right to entertain.

In the days of Christ the rabbis put a forced, mystical construction upon many portions of Scripture. Because the plain teaching of God’s Word condemned their practices, they tried to destroy its force. The same thing is done today. The Word of God is made to appear mysterious and obscure in order to excuse transgression of His law. Christ rebuked these practices in His day. He taught that the Word of God was to be understood by all. He pointed to the Scriptures as of unquestionable authority, and we should do the same. The Bible is to be presented as the word of the infinite God, as the end of all controversy and the foundation of all faith.

Ellen Gold White, To Be Like Jesus, pg. 123 – April 23

**GOING DEEPER**

God cannot, and will never, abrogate or surrender His divine authority. The same is true of the supreme authority of the Holy Scriptures, for they are God’s Word. The primary response to that authority by humans should be a response of faith, issuing in willing obedience. The Word of God addresses humans in their totality: mind, heart, and soul (Matt 22:37). Through His Word, the Lord not only invites us to reason together (Isa 1:18); He also urges us to give Him our hearts (Prov 23:26).


**QUESTION...**

Which lessons about God’s Revelation can you grasp from *Hebrews 1:1-2*?

**QUOTE OF THE DAY**

“Of the many influences that have shaped the United States into a distinctive nation and people, none may be said to be more fundamental and enduring than the Bible.”

President Ronald Reagan, 40th President of the United States

**DID YOU KNOW?**

The Bible was first printed in 1454 AD by Johannes Gutenberg (who invented the “type mold” for the printing press).

**IN LETTERS OF GOLD**

“Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” Acts 4:29-30

**THIS WEEK’S HOMEWORK**

1. Memorize: “Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.” Joshua 1:8
2. Choose five individuals/families to pray for.
BE CONFORMED TO THE WORD
They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules.
Matthew 15:9

MOMENTS OF PRAYER
☐ Pray for the items listed in your Prayer Journal
☐ Pray for the five individuals/families you chose
☐ Pray for God’s work in the Inter-European Division of Seventh-Day Adventist Church
☐ Pray for God to help you to be gracious and loving toward the lost

Those who desire to know the truth have nothing to fear from the investigation of the Word of God. But upon the threshold of investigation of the Word of God, inquirers after truth should lay aside all prejudice and hold in abeyance all preconceived opinion, and open the ear to hear the voice of God from His messenger. Cherished opinions, long-practiced customs and habits, are to be brought to the test of the Scriptures; and if the Word of God opposes your views, then, for your soul’s sake, do not wrest the Scriptures, as many do to their soul’s destruction in order to make them seem to bear a testimony in favor of their errors. Let your inquiry be, What is truth? Not, What have I hitherto believed to be truth? Do not interpret the Scriptures in the light of your former belief, and assert that some doctrine of finite humanity is truth. Let your inquiry be, What saith the Scriptures?...

Make up your mind that your former theories must change if they are not in harmony with the doctrines of the Bible. You are called upon to put forth diligent effort to discover what is truth. This should not be thought a hard requirement; for we are called upon to toil for our temporal and earthly blessings, and it is not to be expected that we shall find the heavenly treasure unless we are willing to dig in the mines of truth and exercise all our powers of
mind and heart to understand....

Beware lest you read the Word of God in the light of erroneous teaching. It was on this very ground that the Jews made their fatal mistake. They declared that there must be no different interpretation placed upon the Scriptures than that which had been given by the rabbis in former years; and as they had multiplied their traditions and maxims and had clothed them with sacredness, the Word of God was made of no effect through their traditions; and if Jesus Christ, the Word of God, had not come into the world, humanity would have lost all knowledge of the true God....

It is Satan’s studied plan to pervert the Scriptures and to lead us to put a false construction on the Word of God.... All articles of faith, all doctrines and creeds, however sacred they have been regarded, are to be rejected if they contradict the plain statements of the Word of God.

Ellen Gold White, From the Heart, pg. 15 – January 13

GOING DEEPER
Seventh-day Adventists hold the Protestant position that the Bible and the Bible only is the sole rule of faith and practice for Christians. We believe that all theological beliefs must be measured by the living Word, judged by its truth, and whatsoever is unable to pass this test, or is found to be out of harmony with its message, is to be rejected.


QUESTION...
For what purpose were the Holy Scriptures written? Romans 15:4

IN LETTERS OF GOLD
“When they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.” Acts 4:31

THIS WEEK’S HOMEWORK
1. Memorize: “Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.” Joshua 1:8
2. Choose five individuals/families to pray for.
GOD’S WORD OUR LIGHT

Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.
Psalm 119:05

MOMENTS OF PRAYER

☐ Pray for the items listed in your Prayer Journal
☐ Pray for the five individuals/families you chose
☐ Pray for God’s work in the Euro-Asia Division of Seventh-Day Adventist Church
☐ Pray for God to help you to be bold and be prepared at all times to share the Gospel

I have a decided message from the Lord for the people who claim to believe the truth for this time....

The Bible is the voice of God to His people. As we study the living oracles, we are to remember that God is speaking to His people out of His Word. We are to make this Word the man of our counsel.... If we realized the importance of searching the Scriptures, how much more diligently we would study them!... The Scriptures would be read and studied as the sure evidence of God’s will concerning us.

The Bible is to be studied with special interest, for it contains the most valuable information that finite beings can have, pointing out the way in which we are to prepare for the coming of the Son of man in the clouds of heaven, putting away sin, and putting on the white robes of character that will give us entrance into the mansions that Christ told His disciples He was going to prepare for them....

If we do not receive the Word of God as food for the soul, we shall miss the greatest treasure that has been prepared for men and women, for the Word is a message to each and every soul.... If obeyed, it gives spiritual life and strength. The pure, spiritual current that enters the life in a living experience is eternal life to the receiver.

God’s Word is our light. It is Christ’s message to His heritage, who have been bought with the price of His blood.
It was written for our guidance, and if we make this Word our counselor, we shall never walk in strange paths.

The spiritual life is built up from the food given to the mind, and if we eat the food provided in the Word of God, spiritual and mental health will be the result.

We are each deciding our eternal destiny, and it rests wholly with us whether we shall gain eternal life. Shall we live the lessons given in the Word of God, Christ’s great lesson book? It is the grandest and yet most simply arranged and easily understood study book ever provided for human beings. It is the only book that will prepare men and women for the life that measures with the life of God.

Ellen Gold White, From the Heart, pg. 37 – January 25

GOING DEEPER
Gaining a deeper grasp of the Bible is a two-way street. It is true that it will not happen unless the Holy Spirit illumines the mind of the Christian, but neither will it happen unless the Christian is diligent in pursuing biblical knowledge. The more the Christian reads and studies the Bible, the more the Holy Spirit will illumine his or her mind, which encourages the student to read and study further.


QUESTION...
What are the four ways in which Scripture can help us?
2 Timothy 3:16

QUOTE OF THE DAY
“Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ.”
St. Jerome,
Roman Catholic church father

DID YOU KNOW?
According to the Wycliffe Global Alliance, as of October 2014 the statistics are:
• Number of world languages: 6918
  • Total languages with some published scripture: 2883
• Languages with the complete Bible: 531
  • Languages with at least the complete New Testament: 1329
• Languages with at least one book published: 1023
• There are around 700 more Bible translation projects underway in languages which don’t have any parts translated yet.

IN LETTERS OF GOLD
“Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.” Matthew 7:6

THIS WEEK’S HOMEWORK
1. Memorize: “Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.” Joshua 1:8
2. Choose five individuals/families to pray for.
THE BIBLE FROM HEAVEN

But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. 2 Corinthians 4:7

MOMENTS OF PRAYER

☐ Pray for the items listed in your Prayer Journal
☐ Pray for the five individuals/families you chose
☐ Pray for God’s work in the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division of Seventh-Day Adventist Church
☐ Pray for God to give you the desire to study the Bible

God has been pleased to communicate His truth to the world by human agencies, and He Himself, by His Holy Spirit, qualified men and enabled them to do this work. He guided the mind in the selection of what to speak and what to write. The treasure was intrusted to earthen vessels, yet it is, none the less, from Heaven.... The obedient, believing child of God beholds in it [the testimony of God] the glory of a divine power, full of grace and truth.

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

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

There is not always perfect order or apparent unity in the Scriptures.... The truths of the Bible are as pearls
hidden. They must be searched, dug out by painstaking effort. Those who take only a surface view of the Scriptures will, with their superficial knowledge, which they think is very deep, talk of the contradictions of the Bible, and question the authority of the Scriptures. But those whose hearts are in harmony with truth and duty will search the Scriptures with a heart prepared to receive divine impressions. The illuminated soul sees a spiritual unity, one grand golden thread running through the whole, but it requires patience, thought, and prayer to trace out the precious golden thread.

Ellen Gold White, The Faith I Live By, pg. 11 – January 5

GOING DEEPER

We take the Bible in its entirety, believing that it not merely contains the word of God, but is the word of God.

QUESTION...

What was God’s plan in giving us the Bible?
2 Timothy 3:17

IN LETTERS OF GOLD

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.” Matthew 7:7-12

THIS WEEK’S HOMEWORK

1. Memorize: “Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.” Joshua 1:8
2. Choose five individuals/families to pray for.
CENTRAL THEME OF THE SCRIPTURES
And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. Luke 24:27

MOMENTS OF PRAYER
☐ Pray for the items listed in your Prayer Journal
☐ Pray for the five individuals/families you chose
☐ Pray for God’s work in the East-Central Africa Division of Seventh-Day Adventist Church
☐ Pray that you remain obedient in fulfilling the Great Commission of Jesus Christ

There is one great central truth to be kept ever before the mind in the searching of the Scriptures—Christ and Him crucified. Every other truth is invested with influence and power corresponding to its relation to this theme. It is only in the light of the cross that we can discern the exalted character of the law of God. The soul palsied by sin can be endowed with life only through the work wrought out upon the cross by the Author of our salvation. The love of Christ constrains man to unite with Him in His labors and sacrifice. The revelation of divine love awakens in them a sense of their neglected obligation to be light bearers to the world, and inspires them with a missionary spirit. This truth enlightens the mind and sanctifies the soul. It will banish unbelief and inspire faith.... When Christ in His work of redemption is seen to be the great central truth of the system of truth, a new light is shed upon all the events of the past and the future. They are seen in a new relation, and possess a new and deeper significance.

The Old Testament is as verily the gospel in types and shadows as the New Testament is in its unfolding power. The New Testament does not present a new religion; the Old Testament does not present a religion to be superseded by the New. The New Testament is only the advancement and unfolding of the Old. Abel was a believer
in Christ and was as verily saved by His power as was Pe-
ter or Paul. Enoch was a representative of Christ as surely as
was the beloved disciple John. That God who walked with
Enoch was our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He was the
light of the world then, just as He is now.

The truth for this time is broad in its outlines, far reach-
ing, embracing many doctrines, but these doctrines are not
detached items which mean little; they are united by golden
threads, forming a complete whole, with Christ as the living
center.

Ellen Gold White, That I May Know Him, pg. 208 –
July 21

GOING DEEPER
Moses and all the prophets” may refer to “all the scriptures,”
but this expression may as easily refer to Moses as the first of
the prophets and all of those raised up after him by God. Their
prophetic careers, together with the Scriptures, all point for-
toward to the realization of the divine purpose in God’s Messiah.
B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.

QUESTION...
What were the three divisions of Scripture in the days

________________________________________________

_____________________________________________

_____________________________________________

IN LETTERS OF GOLD

“To what greater inspiration
and counsel can we turn than
to the imperishable truth to be
found in this Treasure House,
the BIBLE?”

Queen Elizabeth,
Head of State of the UK and 15
other Commonwealth realms

DID YOU KNOW?

More than 300 Messianic prophecies
were made in the Old Testament and
then fulfilled through Jesus’ life, death and
resurrection. The chances of one person
fulfilling a mere 8 of these prophecies are
1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000. For one
person to fulfill 48 of these prophecies,
the number becomes staggering--1 chance
in 10 to the 157th power (1 with 157
zeros after it). Add to that the 250 other
prophecies, and it becomes impossible for
any other person except Jesus to ever fit
that particular sequence of time and events.

THIS WEEK’S HOMEWORK
1. Memorize: “Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be
careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.” Joshua 1:8
2. Choose five individuals/families to pray for.
AN INFAILIBLE REVELATION

And the words of the Lord are flawless, like silver purified in a crucible, like gold refined seven times. Psalm 12:6

MOMENTS OF PRAYER

☐ Pray for the items listed in your Prayer Journal
☐ Pray for the five individuals/families you chose
☐ Pray for God’s work in the West-Central Africa Division of Seventh-day Adventist Church
☐ Pray that your passion for sharing the Gospel remains ignited

In His Word, God has committed to men the knowledge necessary for salvation. The Holy Scriptures are to be accepted as an authoritative, infallible revelation of His will. They are the standard of character, the revealer of doctrines, and the test of experience.

Spiritual darkness has covered the earth and gross darkness the people.... Many, very many, are questioning the verity and truth of the Scriptures. Human reasoning and the imaginings of the human heart are undermining the inspiration of the Word of God, and that which should be received as granted, is surrounded with a cloud of mysticism. Nothing stands out in clear and distinct lines, upon rock bottom. This is one of the marked signs of the last days.

There are men who strive to be original, who are wise above what is written; therefore, their wisdom is foolishness.... In seeking to make plain or to unravel mysteries hid from ages from mortal man, they are like a man floundering about in the mud, unable to extricate himself and yet telling others how to get out of the muddy sea they themselves are in. This is a fit representation of the men who set themselves to correct the errors of the Bible. No man can improve the Bible by suggesting what the Lord meant to say or ought to have said.
I take the Bible just as it is, as the Inspired Word. I believe its utterances in an entire Bible.

This Holy Book has withstood the assaults of Satan, who has united with evil men to make everything of divine character shrouded in clouds and darkness. But the Lord has preserved this Holy Book by His own miraculous power in its present shape — a chart or guidebook to the human family to show them the way to heaven.

We thank God that the Bible is prepared for the poor man as well as for the learned man. It is fitted for all ages and all classes.

Ellen Gold White, The Faith I Live By, pg. 13 – January 07

GOING DEEPER
Aside from the Dead Sea Scrolls, there are two other ancient witnesses that attest to the accuracy of the copyists of the Old Testament. One of these is the Greek translation of the Old Testament, called the Septuagint; another is the text that was preserved by the Samaritans that live today in Nablus, Palestine. No wonder R. Laird Harris, an Old Testament scholar, concluded: “We can now be sure that copyists worked with great care and accuracy on the Old Testament, even back to 225 B.C. At that time there were two or three types of text available for copying. These types differed among themselves so little, however, that we can infer that still earlier copyists had also faithfully and carefully transmitted the Old Testament text. Indeed, it would be rash skepticism that would now deny that we have our Old Testament in a form very close to that used by Ezra when he taught the Law to those who had returned from the Babylonian captivity.”


QUESTION...
According to Jesus what is the character of God’s Book? John 17:17

QUOTE OF THE DAY
“I may add that the result of my 45 years of study of the Bible has led me all the time to a firmer faith that in the Old Testament, we have a true historical account of the history of the Israelite people.”

Robert Dick Wilson, American Linguist and Presbyterian scholar

DID YOU KNOW?
A shepherd boy discovered old clay jars in a cave by the Dead Sea in 1947. The old jars contained dusty scrolls, which turned out to include ancient copies of the Old Testament. The Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered in eleven caves along the northwest shore of the Dead Sea between the years 1947 and 1956. The area is 13 miles east of Jerusalem and is 1300 feet below sea level. The mostly fragmented texts are numbered according to the cave that they came out of. They have been called the greatest manuscript discovery of modern times.

IN LETTERS OF GOLD
“For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.” Matthew 24:24

THIS WEEK’S HOMEWORK
1. Memorize: “I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.” Psalm 119:11
2. Contact the five individuals/families that you are praying for, and inform them that you have been praying for them and ask them if they have a special prayer request.
SCIENCE AND REVELATION

The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.” Psalm 14:1

MOMENTS OF PRAYER

☐ Pray for the items listed in your Prayer Journal
☐ Pray for the five individuals/families you chose
☐ Pray for God’s work in the South Pacific Division of Seventh-day Adventist Church
☐ Pray that God will prepare your friends’ heart to receive the Good News

There are those who think they have made wonderful discoveries in science. They quote the opinions of learned people as though they considered them infallible, and teach the deductions of science as truths that cannot be controverted. And the Word of God, which is given as a lamp to the feet of the world-weary traveler, is judged by this standard, and pronounced wanting. The scientific research in which these individuals have indulged has proved a snare to them. It has clouded their minds, and they have drifted into skepticism. They have a consciousness of power, and instead of looking to the Source of all wisdom, they triumph in the smattering of knowledge they may have gained. They have exalted their human wisdom in opposition to the wisdom of the great and mighty God and have dared to enter into controversy with Him. The Word of Inspiration pronounces these persons “fools.”

God has permitted a flood of light to be poured upon the world in discoveries in science and art, but when professed scientists lecture and write upon these subjects from a merely human standpoint, they will assuredly come to wrong conclusions. The greatest minds, if not guided by the Word of God in their research, become bewildered in their attempts to investigate the relations of science and revelation. The Creator and His works are beyond their comprehension; and because they cannot explain these by natural laws, Bible history is considered unreliable. Those who doubt the reliability of the records of the Old and New Testaments will be led to go a step farther and doubt the existence of God, and then, having let go their anchor, they are left to beat about upon the rocks.
of infidelity. Moses wrote under the guidance of the Spirit of God, and a correct theory of geology will never claim discoveries that cannot be reconciled with his statements. The idea that many stumble over, that God did not create matter when He brought the world into existence, limits the power of the Holy One of Israel.

Many, when they find themselves incapable of measuring the Creator and His works by their own imperfect knowledge in science, doubt the existence of God and attribute infinite power to nature. The Bible is not to be tested by human ideas of science, but science is to be brought to the test of this unerring standard.

Ellen Gold White, From The Heart, pg. 155 – May 23

GOING DEEPER
Skepticism toward ancient writings, well founded in many cases, was then also extended to the writings of the Bible. Many people thought that the Biblical records about this world’s ancient history, and the stories about the patriarchs, prophets, judges, and kings, were in most cases just as legendary as those of other ancient peoples, which had come down to us through Greek and Latin writings. The most famous historians and theologians of the 19th century were the greatest doubters of the veracity of the stories of the Bible, and were among its most vigorous critics. This attitude has greatly changed since the turn of the [twentieth] century. Much more respect is now shown toward the Old Testament, its narratives, and its teachings than was shown a few decades ago. The results of explorations in the Near East have done more than anything else to bring this about. In the flood of light thrown by archaeology upon the ancient civilizations the Old Testament stands forth not only as historically reliable but also as unique in scope, power, and lofty ideals in comparison with the best products of the ancient world.

The Seventh-Day Adventist Church Bible Commentary, vol. 1, p. 100.

QUESTION...
What value did Job place upon the words of God? Job 23:12

IN LETTERS OF GOLD

“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.” Colossians 2:6-7

THIS WEEK’S HOMEWORK
1. Memorize: “I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.” Psalm 119:11
2. Contact the five individuals/families that you are praying for, and inform them that you have been praying for them and ask them if they have a special prayer request.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“We must not build on the sands of an uncertain and everchanging science...but upon the rock of inspired Scriptures.”

Sir Ambrose Flemming, British electrical engineer and inventor

DID YOU KNOW?

The discovery of the law code of Hammurabi in 1901-1902 in Susa and the excavation in Nuzi have shown that some of the practices of the patriarchs — such as the experience of Sarah giving her slave girl to Abraham (Gen. 16:1-3), the selling of the birthright for food (Gen. 25:33), and married daughters receiving a handmaid (Gen. 29:24, 29) — were common practices in the ancient world.
Bible Reading Plan

Day 11

UNLIMITED IN POWER

For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm. Psalm 33:9

MOMENTS OF PRAYER

☐ Pray for the items listed in your Prayer Journal
☐ Pray for the five individuals/families you chose
☐ Pray for God’s work in the Northern Asia-Pacific Division of Seventh-day Adventist Church
☐ Pray that God will prepare your family’s heart to receive the Good News

Scientific research will open to the minds of the really wise vast fields of thought and information. They will see God in His works, and will praise Him. He will be to them first and best, and the mind will be centered upon Him. Sceptics, who read the Bible for the sake of cavilling, through ignorance claim to find decided contradictions between science and revelation. But man’s measurement of God will never be correct. The mind unenlightened by God’s Spirit will ever be in darkness in regard to His power.

Spiritual things are spiritually discerned. Those who have no vital union with God are swayed one way and another; they put men’s opinions in the front, and God’s Word in the background. They grasp human assertions, that judgment against sin is contrary to God’s benevolent character, and, while dwelling upon infinite benevolence, try to forget that there is such a thing as infinite justice.

When we have right views of the power, greatness, and majesty of God, and of the weakness of man, we shall despise the assumptions of wisdom made by earth’s so-called great men, who have none of Heaven’s nobility in their characters. There is nothing for which men should be praised or exalted. There is no reason why the opinions of the learned should be trusted, when they are disposed to measure divine things by their own perverted conceptions. Those who serve God are the only ones whose opinion and example it is safe to follow. A sanctified heart quickens and intensifies the mental
powers. A living faith in God imparts energy; it gives calmness and repose of spirit, and strength and nobility of character.

Men of science think that with their enlarged conceptions they can comprehend the wisdom of God, that which He has done or can do. The idea largely prevails that He is bounded and restricted by His own laws. Men either deny and ignore His existence, or think to explain everything, even the operations of His Spirit upon the human heart, by natural laws; and they no longer reverence His name or fear His power. While they think they are gaining everything, they are chasing bubbles, and losing precious opportunities to become acquainted with God. They do not believe in the supernatural, not realizing that the Author of nature’s laws can work above those laws. They deny the claims of God, and neglect the interests of their own souls; but His existence, His character, His laws, are facts that the reasoning of men of the highest attainments cannot overthrow.

Nature is a power, but the God of nature is unlimited in power. His works interpret His character.

Ellen Gold White, Lift Him Up, pg. 61 – February 16

GOING DEEPER

One of the most amazing evidences of the divine inspiration of the Bible is its scientific accuracy. There are many unexpected scientific truths that have lain hidden within its pages for thousands of years, only to be recognized and appreciated in recent times. These principles are not expressed in modern technical jargon, of course, but nevertheless are presented accurately and beautifully, indicating remarkable understanding of nature by these ancient authors far in advance of their “discovery” by modern scientists.


QUOTE OF THE DAY

“I find it as difficult to understand a scientist who does not acknowledge the presence of a superior rationality behind the existence of the universe as it is to comprehend a theologian who would deny the advances of science.”

Wernher Von Braun, German-American rocket scientist

DID YOU KNOW?

Matthew Maury (1806-1873) is considered the father of oceanography. His daughter was reading a portion of the Bible to him. While listening, he noticed the expression “paths of the sea” in Psalms 8:8. Upon his recovery, Maury took God at His word and went looking for these paths. We are indebted to his discovery of the warm and cold continental currents. His book on oceanography is still considered a basic text on the subject and is still used in universities. Maury used the Bible as a guide to scientific discovery.

QUESTION...

How firm was the prophet Isaiah’s faith in God’s Word? Isaiah 40:8

IN LETTERS OF GOLD

“See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.” Colossians 2:8

THIS WEEK’S HOMEWORK

1. Memorize: “I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.” Psalm 119:11
2. Contact the five individuals/families that you are praying for, and inform them that you have been praying for them and ask them if they have a special prayer request.
STUDY THE PROPHECIES

Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near. Revelation 1:3

MOMENTS OF PRAYER

☐ Pray for the items listed in your Prayer Journal
☐ Pray for the five individuals/families you chose
☐ Pray for God’s work in the Southern Asia-Pacific Division of Seventh-day Adventist Church
☐ Pray that God will prepare your friends’ heart to receive the Good News

From the rise and fall of nations as made plain in the books of Daniel and the Revelation, we need to learn how worthless is mere outward and worldly glory. Babylon, with all its power and magnificence, the like of which our world has never since beheld—power and magnificence which to the people of that day seemed so stable and enduring—how completely has it passed away! As “the flower of the grass,” it has perished. So perished the Medo-Persian kingdom, and the kingdoms of Grecia and Rome. And so perishes all that has not God for its foundation. Only that which is bound up with His purpose, and expresses His character, can endure. His principles are the only steadfast things our world knows.

When the books of Daniel and Revelation are better understood, believers will have an entirely different religious experience. They will be given such glimpses of the open gates of heaven that heart and mind will be impressed with the character that all must develop in order to realize the blessedness which is to be the reward of the pure in heart. The Lord will bless all who will seek humbly and meekly to understand that which is revealed in the Revelation. This book contains so much that is large with immortality and full of glory that all who read and search it earnestly receive the blessing to those “that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those
things which are written therein.” One thing will certainly be understood from the study of Revelation—that the connection between God and His people is close and decided.

Let us give more time to the study of the Bible. We do not understand the Word as we should. The book of Revelation opens with an injunction to us to understand the instruction that it contains.... When we ... understand what this book means to us, there will be seen among us a great revival.

Ellen Gold White, The Faith I Live By, pg. 345 – December 5

GOING DEEPER
In the same way that a prophet is a spokesman, or messenger, for God, so prophecy is any message spoken for God, at His command. It is a special revelation of the divine mind and will, designed to enable man to cooperate intelligently with the infinite purposes of God, and consists essentially in counsel, guidance, reproof, and warning. Since “God does nothing, without revealing his secret to his servants the prophets” (Amos 3:7, RSV), He expects those who read what the prophets have written to give the most diligent heed thereto. In so doing they are certain to “succeed” (2 Chr 20:20, RSV) Those who fail to heed the words spoken by a prophet as God’s messenger or watchman are personally accountable before God (see Eze 3:17–21; 33:1–9). For the most part, Israel rejected the stirring appeals of the prophets (see Lk 11:47, 48), even as God forewarned Isaiah (Is 6:9–11) and Jeremiah (see Jer 1:8, 17, 19). It was the rejection of the messages of the prophets that brought ruin upon Israel; it led to their refusal to accept their Messiah, and thus to their rejection as a nation.


QUESTION...
What does the Bible say about prophecy? 1 Peter 1:21

IN LETTERS OF GOLD
“So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. For, 'In just a little while, he who is coming will come and will not delay'." Hebrews 10:35-37

THIS WEEK’S HOMEWORK
1. Memorize: “I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.” Psalm 119:11
2. Contact the five individuals/families that you are praying for, and inform them that you have been praying for them and ask them if they have a special prayer request.
THE GLORY OF A DIVINE POWER

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16, 17

MOMENTS OF PRAYER

☐ Pray for the items listed in your Prayer Journal
☐ Pray for the five individuals/families you chose
☐ Pray for God’s work in the Southern Asia Division of Seventh-day Adventist Church
☐ Pray that God will prepare your colleagues’ heart to receive the Good News

God has been pleased to communicate His truth to the world by human agencies, and He Himself, by His Holy Spirit, qualified men and enabled them to do this work. He guided the mind in the selection of what to speak and what to write. The treasure was entrusted to earthen vessels, yet it is, nonetheless, from Heaven. The testimony is conveyed through the imperfect expression of human language, yet it is the testimony of God; and the obedient, believing child of God beholds in it the glory of a divine power, full of grace and truth.

In His Word, God has committed to men the knowledge necessary for salvation. The Holy Scriptures are to be accepted as an authoritative, infallible revelation of His will. They are the standard of character, the revealer of doctrines, and the test of experience...

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

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

In harmony with the Word of God, His Spirit was to continue its work throughout the period of the gospel dispensation. During the ages while the Scriptures of both the Old and the New Testament were being given, the Holy Spirit did not cease to communicate light to individual minds, apart from the revelations to be embodied in the Sacred Canon. The Bible itself relates how, through the Holy Spirit, men received warning, reproof, counsel, and instruction, in matters in no way relating to the giving of the Scriptures. And mention is made of prophets in different ages, of whose utterances nothing is recorded. In like manner, after the close of the canon of the Scriptures, the Holy Spirit was still to continue its work, to enlighten, warn, and comfort the children of God.

Ellen Gold White, Lift Him UP, pg. 118 – April 14

GOING DEEPER
The Seventh-day Adventist understanding of the canon and of the text is based upon clear understanding of inspiration. The same Holy Spirit who inspired authors in different time periods, in different historical contexts also has remained actively involved in the conservation and transmission of Scripture. One of the main features of the biblical canon is self-authentication nature of the texts, since they were “inspired”. As indicated earlier, canonization is not a sociological phenomenon, but a historical affirmation of the authority and “God-breathed” nature of Scripture.


QUESTION...
Upon what evidence did Jesus base the fact of His Messiahship? Luke 24:27

IN LETTERS OF GOLD
And, ‘But my righteous one will live by faith. And I take no pleasure in the one who shrinks back.’ But we do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved.” Hebrews 10:38, 39

THIS WEEK’S HOMEWORK
1. Memorize: “I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.” Psalm 119:11
2. Contact the five individuals/families that you are praying for, and inform them that you have been praying for them and ask them if they have a special prayer request.
THE BIBLE—GOD’S WORD TO YOU
You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me. John 5:39

MOMENTS OF PRAYER
☐ Pray for the items listed in your Prayer Journal
☐ Pray for the five individuals/families you chose
☐ Pray for God’s work in the South American Division of Seventh-day Adventist Church
☐ Pray for Christian missionaries around the world

“Search the scriptures.” This is the word, which comes to us from Christ. If it had been essential for us to search the [church] Fathers, Christ would have told us so. But the Fathers do not all speak the same thing. Which of them shall we choose as a guide? There is no need for us to trust to uncertainty. We pass by the Fathers to learn of God out of His Word. This is life eternal, to know God. Oh, how thankful we should be that the Bible is the inspired word of God. Holy men of old wrote this Word as they were moved by the Spirit. God did not leave His Word to be preserved in the memories of men and handed down from generation to generation by oral transmission and traditional unfolding. Had He done this, the Word would gradually have been added to by men. We would have been asked to receive that which is not inspired. Let us thank God for His written word.

The commentaries written about the Word do not all agree. Often they come into collision with one another. God does not ask us to be guided by them. It is His Word with which we have to deal. All can search this Word for themselves. And they may know that the teaching of this precious book is unchangeable. The opinions of human beings differ, but the Bible always says the same thing. The Word of God is from everlasting to everlasting.
The Bible was not given only for ministers and learned men. Every man, woman, and child should read the Scriptures for himself or herself. Do not depend on the minister to read it for you. The Bible is God’s word to you. The poor man needs it as much as the rich man, the unlearned as much as the learned. And Christ has made this Word so plain that in reading it no one need stumble. Let the humble cottager read and understand the Word given by the wisest Teacher the world has ever known, and among kings, governors, statesmen, and the world’s most highly educated men there is none greater than He...

To search means to look diligently for something, which has been lost. Search yourself for the hidden treasure. Do not leave this work to the minister. You cannot afford to be ignorant of the Word of God. Study the difficult passages, comparing verse with verse, and you will find that Scripture is the key, which unlocks Scripture. Those who prayerfully study the Scriptures go from their study wiser than when they opened the Bible.

Ellen Gold White, The Upward Look, pg. 52 – February 7

GOING DEEPER
The Masoretic scribes (A.D. 500-1000) in charge of the Old Testament manuscript copying used a very meticulous system of transcription and had a deep reverence for the text. God used their almost obsessive respect for the text to preserve the text’s accuracy. They had specific rules on the type of ink and the quality and size of parchment sheets. No individual letter could be written down without having looked back at the copy in front of them. The scribe could not write God’s name with a newly dipped pen (lest it blotch) and even if the king should address him, while writing God’s name, he should take no notice of him. They were so meticulous that they counted all the paragraphs, words and even letters, so they could know by counting, if they had done it perfectly. They knew the middle letter of each book so they could count back and see if they had missed anything. https://bible.org/seriespage/5-transmission

QUESTION...
Why were the Bereans more nobles than others? Acts 17:11

IN LETTERS OF GOLD
“For anyone who enters God’s rest also rests from their works, just as God did from his. Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will perish by following their example of disobedience.” Hebrews 4:10, 11

THIS WEEK’S HOMEWORK
1. Memorize: “I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.” Psalm 119:11
2. Contact the five individuals/families that you are praying for, and inform them that you have been praying for them and ask them if they have a special prayer request.
TRUE LEARNERS ACCEPT THE SCRIPTURES AS GOD’S VOICE

If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. John 8:31, 32

MOMENTS OF PRAYER

☐ Pray for the items listed in your Prayer Journal
☐ Pray for the five individuals/families you chose
☐ Pray for God’s work in the Israel Field of Seventh-day Adventist Church
☐ Pray for countries where it is illegal to preach the Gospel

The young men and women who make the Bible their guide need not mistake the path of duty and of safety. That Book will teach them to preserve their integrity of character, to be truthful, to practice no deception. It will teach them that they must never transgress God’s law in order to accomplish a desired object, even though to obey involves a sacrifice. It will teach them that the blessing of heaven will not rest upon them if they depart from the path of right doing; that although some may appear to prosper in disobedience, they will surely reap the fruit of their sowing.

Those only who read the Scriptures as the voice of God speaking to them are true learners. They tremble at the voice of God, for to them it is a living reality. They open their understanding to divine instruction and pray for grace, that they may obtain a preparation for service. As the heavenly torch is placed in their hands, the seekers for truth see their own frailty, their infirmity, the hopelessness of looking to themselves for righteousness. They see that there is in them nothing that can recommend them to God. They pray for the Holy Spirit, the representative of Christ, to be their constant guide, to lead them into all truth. They repeat the promise “But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things” (John 14:26)...
Diligent Bible students will constantly increase in knowledge and discernment. Their intellect will grasp elevated subjects and lay hold of the truth of eternal realities. Their motives of action will be right. They will use their talents of influence to help others to understand more perfectly their God-given responsibilities. Their hearts will be a wellspring of joy as they see success attend their efforts to impart to others the blessings they have received.

Ellen Gold White, To Be Like Jesus pg. 130 - April 30

GOING DEEPER

Scripture is the Word of God coming to us in a human garment so that we can understand what God wants to communicate to us. While we do not deny the challenges and difficulties, we do not solely focus on them. We see the larger picture. We are amazed by the wonderful attestation and transmission of the divine message. We marvel when we see the harmony and unity in God's Word. And we follow Jesus our Lord, who lived by the Word of God and who challenged us to know our Bible.


QUESTION...

By what is man to live? Matthew 4:4

IN LETTERS OF GOLD

“For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.” Hebrews 4:12

THIS WEEK’S HOMEWORK

1. Memorize: “I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.” Psalm 119:11
2. Contact the five individuals/families that you are praying for, and inform them that you have been praying for them and ask them if they have a special prayer request.
BIBLE STUDY STRENGTHENS INTELLECT

How I long for your precepts!
In your righteousness preserve
my life. Psalm 119:40

MOMENTS OF PRAYER

☐ Pray for the items listed in your Prayer Journal
☐ Pray for the five individuals/families you chose
☐ Pray for God’s work in the territory of the Greater Middle East of Seventh-day Adventist Church
☐ Pray for perseverance and protection for Christians who live in countries where they are persecuted

“Given by inspiration of God,” “able to make thee wise unto salvation,” rendering “the man of God... perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works”- the Book of books has the highest claims to our reverent attention. Superficial study of the Word of God cannot meet the claims it has upon us nor furnish us with the benefit that is promised.... To read daily a certain number of chapters, or to commit to memory a stipulated amount of Scripture, without careful thought as to the meaning of the text, will profit but little.

To study one passage until its significance is clear to the mind and its relation to the plan of salvation is evident is of more value than the perusal of many chapters with no definite purpose in view and no positive instruction gained. We cannot obtain wisdom from the Word of God without giving earnest and prayerful attention to its study. It is true that some portions of Scripture are, indeed, too plain to be misunderstood, but there are many portions whose meaning cannot be seen at a glance, for the truth does not lie upon the surface....

No study is better to give energy to the mind, to strengthen the intellect, than the study of the Word of God. No other book is so potent in elevating the thoughts, in giving vigor to the faculties, as is the Bible, which contains the most ennobling truths. If God’s Word were studied as it should be, we would see breadth of mind, sta-
bility of purpose, nobility of character, such as is rarely seen in these times...

Of all the books that flood the world, however valuable, the Bible is the Book of books, most deserving of our study and admiration. It gives not only the history of this world but a description of the world to come. It contains instruction concerning the wonders of the universe; it reveals to our understanding the character of the Author of the heavens and the earth....

The one who studies the Bible holds converse with patriarchs and prophets. Contact is made with truth clothed in elevated language, which exerts a fascinating power over the mind and lifts the thoughts from the things of earth to the glory of the future immortal life. What human wisdom can compare with the revelation of the grandeur of God?

Ellen Gold White, From the Heart, pg. 30 – January 18

GOING DEEPER
Liberal critical scholars for nearly a century stressed the diversity in the documents of the Scriptures, but in present-day theological thinking there is a renewed emphasis on the essential unity of the Bible. Its great unifying principle, its central theme, is the redemptive plan, and the working out of that plan in human history. But the unity of the Bible must not be interpreted as uniformity. In the various books of the Scriptures the redemptive plan is viewed from various angles, and stress is laid on various aspects, with varying emphasis.

QUESTION...
What did Christ say to the people of His day concerning the Scriptures? John 5:39

IN LETTERS OF GOLD
“Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” Philippians 1:6

THIS WEEK’S HOMEWORK
1. Memorize: “For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.” Romans 15:4
2. Deliver to the five individuals/families that you are praying for, the health resource that the church is making available during this 50 Days journey.
LET GOD WORK HIS WILL IN YOU

Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. Hebrews 13:20-21

MOMENTS OF PRAYER

☐ Pray for the items listed in your Prayer Journal
☐ Pray for the five individuals/families you chose
☐ Pray for God’s work in the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada
☐ Pray for the Lord to send more workers into his fields

By studying the Word of God, and carrying out its precepts in all their business transactions, men may carefully discern the spirit that controls the actions. In the place of following human impulse and natural inclination, they may learn, by diligent study, the principles that should control the sons and daughters of Adam.

The Bible is the guidebook that is to decide the many difficult problems that rise in minds that are selfishly inclined. It is a reflection of the wisdom of God, and not only furnishes great and important principles, but supplies practical lessons for the life and conduct of man toward his fellow man. It gives minute particulars that decide our relation to God and to each other. It is a complete revelation of the attributes and will of God in the person of Jesus Christ, and in it is set forth the obligation of the human agent to render wholehearted service to God, and to inquire at every step of the way, “Is this the way of the Lord?”...

A deceiving crookedness is discernible in the minds of those whose eyes are not anointed with the heavenly eye-salve that they may see all things in the light of God’s Word. The will becomes enslaved, bound to pursue a course which the Word of God will not justify. The will of the human agent is not to be given into the control of any other man. When merged into the will of other men, it is misleading...
If the human agent consents, God can and will so identify His will with all our thoughts and aims, so blend our hearts and minds into conformity to His Word, that when obeying His will, we are only carrying out the impulses of our minds. All such will not possess an unсанctified, selfish disposition, ready to carry out their own wills, but will have a jealous, earnest, determined zeal for the glory of God. They will not want to do anything in their own strength, and will guard strictly against the danger of promoting self.

All who would perfect a Christian character must wear the yoke of Christ. If they would sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus, they must learn of Him while on this earth. Our natures are in need of discipline. They must be conformed to the nature of Jesus Christ, that He may accomplish the good He designs to do for all who will submit to be molded by yielding their natures to His authority. The great Teacher will yoke up with every soul who will bear His yoke.

Ellen Gold White, Our Father Cares, pg. 268 – October 16

GOING DEEPER
The message that permeates the Bible is that all humans are sinful by their nature and conscious action, and are under the judgment of a holy and righteous Creator-God, who has willing offered His own Son as the substitutionary sacrifice for humanity’s sentence of eternal death. That salvation transforms! The “new birth” is a “new creation.” Such a supernatural event must transform a life, if it is real. Both the Bible and history are replete with such evidence. http://www.icr.org/bible-transforms

QUESTION...
How powerful is the Word of God when brought into contact with one’s life? Hebrews 4:12

IN LETTERS OF GOLD
“Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God. For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him.” Philippians 1:27-29

THIS WEEK’S HOMEWORK
1. Memorize: “For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.” Romans 15:4
2. Deliver to the five individuals/families that you are praying for, the health resource that the church is making available during this 50 Days journey.
CHRIST IN YOU THE HOPE OF GLORY

To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Colossians 1:27

MOMENTS OF PRAYER

☐ Pray for the items listed in your Prayer Journal
☐ Pray for the five individuals/families you chose
☐ Pray for God’s work in the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Newfoundland and Labrador
☐ Pray for God’s will to be done in your life

That which brings sickness of body and mind to nearly all is dissatisfied feelings and discontented repinings. They have not God, they have not the hope which reaches to that within the veil, which is as an anchor to the soul both sure and steadfast. All who possess this hope will purify themselves even as He is pure. Such are free from restless longings, repinings, and discontent; they are not continually looking for evil and brooding over borrowed trouble. But we see many who are having a time of trouble beforehand; anxiety is stamped upon every feature; they seem to find no consolation, but have a continual fearful looking for of some dreadful evil.... Vain amusements will never correct the minds of such. They need the transforming influence of the Spirit of God in order to be happy.

They need to be benefited by the mediation of Christ, in order to realize consolation, divine and substantial. “For he that will love life, and see good days, let him ... eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it.” ... Those who have an experimental knowledge of this scripture are truly happy.... Christ in them the hope of glory will be health to the body and strength to the soul.

The soul that is imbued with the love of Jesus ... loves to contemplate Jesus, and by beholding Him, will become changed into His likeness. Christ is formed within, the hope of glory. His confidence increases ... and his love deep-
ens and widens, as he has the assurance that he is abiding in Christ, and Christ in him.... And we may look to Jesus for His tenderest sympathy and be encouraged to persevere, putting our whole trust in Him who has said, “Be of good cheer: I have overcome the world.”

Ellen Gold White, Son and Daughters of God, pg. 310 – October 30

GOING DEEPER
In the nt, hope may be a desire or expectation regarding future life events in general, as when Herod hoped (ἐλπίζω, elpizō) that Jesus would perform miracles (Luke 23:8) or when Paul hoped (elpizō) to see the Roman Christians on his way to Spain (Rom 15:24). In the Gospels, the theological concept of hope is expressed in terms of waiting (προσδέχομαι, pros-dechomai) for the kingdom of God (Mark 15:43). In the Letters, hope is directly related to and grows out of faith in God. While faith takes God at his word, believing that he will do as he has promised, hope is the anticipation of the fulfillment of God’s promises (Rom 4:18–21; Heb 6:11–18). Hope originates with God (Rom 15:13), is based on his calling (Eph 1:18; 4:4), and is facilitated by Scripture (Rom 15:4). Specific objects of hope include the future resurrection (Acts 23:6; Rom 8:20–24); the Parousia (Titus 2:13; 1 John 3:2–3); and eternal life (Titus 1:2; 3:7). Hope’s opposite is expressed in terms of unbelief (Heb 3:6–12), grief or despair (1 Thess 4:13), and shame or disappointment (Rom 5:5; Phil 1:20).


QUESTION...
What was Peter constrained to say about Christ’s words? John 6:68

QUOTED OF THE DAY
“I want to know one thing, — the way to heaven; how to land safe on that happy shore. God himself has condescended to teach me the way. For this very end He came from heaven. He hath written it down in a book. O give me that book! At any price, give me the book of God! I have it: here is knowledge enough for me. Let me be homo unius libri [man of one book].”

John Wesley, Anglican minister and theologian

DID YOU KNOW?
In Scripture, according to the Hebrew and Greek words translated by the word “hope” and according to the biblical usage, hope is an indication of certainty. “Hope” in Scripture means “a strong and confident expectation.”

IN LETTERS OF GOLD
“For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose. Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, ‘children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.’ Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky.” Philippians 2:13-15

THIS WEEK’S HOMEWORK
1. Memorize: “For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.” Romans 15:4
2. Deliver to the five individuals/families that you are praying for, the health resource that the church is making available during this 50 Days journey.
RESULTS OF OBEDIENCE TO PHYSICAL LAWS

These are the commands, decrees and laws the Lord your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the Lord your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life. Deuteronomy 6:1-2

MOMENTS OF PRAYER

☐ Pray for the items listed in your Prayer Journal
☐ Pray for the five individuals/families you chose
☐ Pray for God’s work in the Maritime Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church
☐ Ask the Holy Spirit to search your heart and reveal any areas of unconfessed sin

In this scripture we are taught that obedience to God’s requirements brings the obedient under the laws that control the physical being. Those who would preserve themselves in health must bring into subjection all appetites and passions. They must not indulge lustful passion and intemperate appetite, for they are to remain under control to God, and their physical, mental, and moral powers are to be so wisely employed that the bodily mechanism will remain in good working order.

Health, life, and happiness are the result of obedience to physical laws governing our bodies. If our will and way are in accordance with God’s will and way; if we do the pleasure of our Creator, He will keep the human organism in good condition, and restore the moral, mental, and physical powers, in order that He may work through us to His glory. Constantly His restoring power is manifested in our bodies. If we cooperate with Him in this work, health and happiness, peace and usefulness, are the sure results.

“And the Lord commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the Lord our God, for our good always, that he might preserve us alive, as it is at this day. And it shall be our righteousness, if we observe to do all these commandments before the Lord our God, as he hath commanded us.” The fear here spoken of it not a servile fear, but a godly fear.
God gave these laws to Israel to preserve them in a happy, healthful state. If there had existed no Satan to tempt them, these special instructions would not have been needed; but unless the people had something to guide them, they would surely be led astray by the specious devisings of the enemy of all righteousness. Their only safety was to be found in hearkening with all diligence to the word of the Lord.

Parents who desire to train their children aright should heed the instruction given in these scriptures, and allow their little ones to do nothing in disregard of God’s commandments so plainly given. Let fathers and mothers faithfully teach their children these precepts, and impress upon their tender minds that fact that in obedience there is life, health, happiness....

The great object we should always keep in view, when obtaining a knowledge of God’s laws, is that we are to become acquainted with His will in order that we may obey Him.

Ellen Gold White, Lift Him Up, pg. 160 – May 26

GOING DEEPER

The biblical view of responsibility for health is God-centered rather than self-centered. Our bodies are gifts (or better, loans) from God for which we are responsible to care — they have been purchased by the blood of Christ. They are not our own to do with as we please. Instead, by faith, we should pursue good health to glorify God, serve others (Rom. 14:7–8; 1 Cor. 6:19–20; 2 Cor. 5:15; Phil. 1:20–26), and participate in everything that God has given us to enjoy (1 Tim. 6:17). Only in this context will believers be able to experience the abundant life Christ has offered (John 10:10).


QUESTION...

Are health principles really a part of true Bible religion? Jeremiah 15:16

IN LETTERS OF GOLD

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.” Ephesians 6:10-13

THIS WEEK’S HOMEWORK

1. Memorize: “For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.” Romans 15:4

2. Deliver to the five individuals/families that you are praying for, the health resource that the church is making available during this 50 Days journey.
THE BIBLE SHOWS THE WAY TO TRUE HAPPINESS

I rejoice in following your statutes as one rejoices in great riches.
I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word. Psalm 119:14-16

MOMENTS OF PRAYER

☐ Pray for the items listed in your Prayer Journal
☐ Pray for the five individuals/families you chose
☐ Pray for God’s work in the Quebec Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church
☐ Pray for strengthening your new identity in Christ

The Bible presents to our view the unsearchable riches and immortal treasures of heaven. Man’s strongest impulse urges him to seek his own happiness, and the Bible recognizes this desire and shows us that all heaven will unite with man in his efforts to gain true happiness. It reveals the condition upon which the peace of Christ is given to men. It describes a home of everlasting happiness and sunshine, where no tears nor want shall ever be known.

That blessed book will teach you to be honest, temperate in all things, frugal, industrious, truthful, and upright. Its counsels heeded will make you a faithful companion of youth, giving you an influence that will ever lead upward, to purity of character; an influence that will lead away from sin, into paths of righteousness.

Will such a life be without enjoyment? Ah, no! It will be full of comfort, full of satisfaction, because you are bringing heaven into your life, peace into your soul, and leaving a testimony that “the law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul.”...

I would that all the young could understand how precious is the offering of a youthful heart to God. How lovingly the angels guard the steps of God-fearing, God-loving youth. Jesus knows them by name, and their example is helping other youth to do right. The youth who has hidden within the heart and mind a store of God’s words of
caution and encouragement, of His precious pearls of promise, from which he can draw at any time, will be a living channel of light. He has connection with the Source of all light. The Sun of Righteousness sends its light and healing beams into his soul, irradiating rays of light to all around him”.

Ellen Gold White, My Life Today, pg. 160 – June 5

GOING DEEPER
If by happiness we mean serenity, confidence, contentment, peace, joy and soul-satisfaction, then Jesus was supremely ‘happy.’ We never read of His laughing, though I am sure He did. He was not given to pleasure-seeking, hilariousness, jokes or poking fun at others. … His happiness [was not] dependent on outward circumstances. He did not have to have an outward stimulus to make Him happy. He had learned a secret that allowed Him to live above the circumstances of life and fear of the future. He moved with calmness, certainty and serenity through the most trying circumstances—even death! … Certainly if anyone had genuine happiness and blessedness, it was Jesus.


QUESTION...
What happens when we feed upon God’s Word?
Jeremiah 15:16

IN LETTERS OF GOLD
“Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.”

Ephesians 6:14-18

QUOTE OF THE DAY
“Take all that you can of this book upon reason, and the balance on faith, and you will live and die a happier man.”

(When a skeptic expressed surprise to see him reading a Bible) Abraham Lincoln, The sixteenth President of the United States

DID YOU KNOW?
In 2004 the General Social Survey found that 43 percent of religious folks said they were very happy with their lives, compared with 23 percent of secularists. Religious people were a third more likely than secularists to say they’re optimistic about the future. And secularists were nearly twice as likely as religious people to say “I’m inclined to feel I’m a failure.”

THIS WEEK’S HOMEWORK
1. Memorize: “For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.” Romans 15:4
2. Deliver to the five individuals/families that you are praying for, the health resource that the church is making available during this 50 Days journey.
NO TRUE WISDOM APART FROM GOD
Blessed are those who find wisdom, those who gain understanding. Proverbs 3:13

MOMENTS OF PRAYER
☐ Pray for the items listed in your Prayer Journal
☐ Pray for the five individuals/families you chose
☐ Pray for God’s work in the Ontario Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church
☐ Pray for filling of the Holy Spirit

True wisdom is a treasure as lasting as eternity. Many of the world’s so-called wise men and women are wise only in their own estimation. Content with the acquisition of worldly wisdom, they never enter the garden of God, to become acquainted with the treasures of knowledge contained in His holy Word. Supposing themselves to be wise, they are ignorant concerning the wisdom which all must have who gain eternal life. They cherish a contempt for the Book of God, which, if studied and obeyed, would make them truly wise.

The Bible is to them an impenetrable mystery. The grand, deep truths of the Old and New Testaments are obscure to them, because spiritual things are not spiritually discerned. They need to learn that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and that without this wisdom, their learning is of little worth.

Those who are striving for an education in the sciences, but who have not learned the lesson that the fear of God is the beginning of wisdom, are working helplessly and hopelessly, questioning the reality of everything. They may acquire an education in the sciences, but unless they gain a knowledge of the Bible and a knowledge of God, they are without true wisdom. Unlearned persons, if they know God and Jesus Christ, have a more enduring wisdom than have the most learned who despise the instruction of God.

True wisdom is infinitely above the comprehension of the worldly wise. The hidden wisdom, which is Christ formed within, the hope of glory, is a wisdom high as heaven. The deep principles of godliness are sublime and
eternal. A Christian experience alone can help us to understand this problem, and obtain the treasures of knowledge which have been hidden in the counsels of God, but are now made known to all who have a vital connection with Christ.

Ellen Gold White, To Be Like Jesus, pg. 101 – April 1

GOING DEEPER
“How long will you who are simple love your simple ways? How long will mockers delight in mockery and fools hate knowledge?” Proverbs 1:22 – Wisdom appeals to three classes: the “simple” (petayim) are those who do not know, have never heard, and consequently never think about the divine standards of morality. The “scoffers” (letsim) are those who mock moral principles, willfully ignore them in their own conduct, and seek to corrupt others. “Fools” (kesilim) are those who “hate knowledge,” i.e., they have no desire to inquire about the moral standards of the Lord (1:22).


QUESTION...
According to the Bible, what is the origin of wisdom? Proverbs 2:6

DID YOU KNOW?
The first main section of Proverbs consists of thirteen discourses addressed to young people by the teacher and by wisdom personified. The general purpose of these discourses is to exhibit the excellences of wisdom and illustrate the principle that “the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge” or wisdom.

QUOTE OF THE DAY
“Our true wisdom is to embrace with meek docility, and without reservation, whatever the holy scriptures have delivered.”

John Calvin, influential French theologian and pastor during the Protestant Reformation

IN LETTERS OF GOLD
“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.” Ephesians 4:32

THIS WEEK’S HOMEWORK
1. Memorize: “For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.” Romans 15:4
2. Deliver to the five individuals/families that you are praying for, the health resource that the church is making available during this 50 Days journey.
THE BOOK THAT ENDURES
Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. Matthew 24:35

MOMENTS OF PRAYER
☐ Pray for the items listed in your Prayer Journal
☐ Pray for the five individuals/families you chose
☐ Pray for God’s work in the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church
☐ Pray for you to receive the fruit of the Spirit: Love

He [Christ] pointed to the Scriptures as of unquestionable authority, and we should do the same. The Bible is to be presented as the word of the infinite God, as the end of all controversy and the foundation of all faith.

The Bible is to them an impenetrable mystery. The grand, deep truths of the Old and New Testaments are obscure to them, because spiritual things are not spiritually discerned. They need to learn that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and that without this wisdom, their learning is of little worth.

The infidel Voltaire once boastingly said: “I am weary of hearing people repeat that twelve men established the Christian religion. I will prove that one man may suffice to overthrow it.” ... Millions have joined in the war upon the Bible. But it is so far from being destroyed, that where there were a hundred in Voltaire’s time, there are now ten thousand, yes, a hundred thousand copies of the Book of God. In the words of an early Reformer concerning the Christian church, “The Bible is an anvil that has worn out many hammers.” Saith the Lord, “No weapon forged against you will prevail, and you will refute every tongue that accuses you.” Isaiah 54:17.

At this time, before the great final crisis, as before the world’s first destruction, men are absorbed in the pleasures and the pursuits of sense. Engrossed with the seen and transitory, they have lost sight of the unseen and eternal. For the things that perish with the using, they are sacrificing imperishable riches... From the rise and fall
of nations as made plain in the pages of Holy Writ, they need to learn how worthless is mere outward and worldly glory.

The Word of God is the only steadfast thing our world knows. It is the sure foundation. “Heaven and earth shall pass away,” said Jesus, “but my words shall not pass away.”

“The word of God shall stand for ever.” “All his commandments are sure. They stand fast for ever and ever, and are done in truth and uprightness.” Isaiah 40:8; Psalm 111:7, 8. Whatever is built upon the authority of man will be overthrown; but that which is founded upon the rock of God’s immutable Word shall stand forever.

Ellen Gold White, The Faith I Live By, pg. 15 – January 9

GOING DEEPER
Heaven and earth have lasted through many human lifetimes and stand for what is permanent. We know that they are not unchangeable and that, for example, through the centuries storms, earthquakes, erosion, and other forces have changed the face of the earth to some extent. But for all that, we speak easily of “solid earth” and view it as one of life’s permanencies. So also with the sun, moon, and stars. But, Jesus now says, all these things will pass away, and in doing so they form a contrast to his saying. His words will not pass away. This implies a far-reaching claim about his person, as well as about the end of the world. What he says will in the end have its fulfilment.

Ellen Gold White, The Faith I Live By, pg. 15 – January 9

QUESTION...
How should the words of 1 Peter 1:24, 25 help us trust in the Bible, in its promises and in its warnings?

IN LETTERS OF GOLD

“For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.” Romans 15:4

THIS WEEK’S HOMEWORK
1. Memorize: “For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.” Romans 15:4
2. Deliver to the five individuals/families that you are praying for, the health resource that the church is making available during this 50 Days journey.
THE IMPRESS OF DEITY SEEN IN HIS WORD

Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. Colossians 3:16

MOMENTS OF PRAYER

☐ Pray for the items listed in your Prayer Journal
☐ Pray for the five individuals/families you chose
☐ Pray for God’s work in the Alberta Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church
☐ Pray for you to receive the fruit of the Spirit: Peace

In God’s Word we behold the power that laid the foundation of the earth and that stretched out the heavens. Here only can we find a history of our race unsullied by human prejudice or human pride. Here are recorded the struggles, the defeats, and the victories of the greatest men this world has ever known. Here the great problems of duty and destiny are unfolded. The curtain that separates the visible from the invisible world is lifted, and we behold the conflict of the opposing forces of good and evil, from the first entrance of sin to the final triumph of righteousness and truth; and all is but a revelation of the character of God. In the reverent contemplation of the truths presented in His Word the mind...is brought into communion with the infinite mind. Such a study will not only refine and ennoble the character, but it cannot fail to expand and invigorate the mental powers.

The teaching of the Bible has a vital bearing upon man’s prosperity in all the relations of this life. It unfolds the principles that are the cornerstone of a nation’s prosperity—principles with which is bound up the well being of society, and which are the safeguard of the family—principles without which no man can attain usefulness, happiness, and honor in this life, or can hope to secure the future, immortal life. There is no position in life, no phase of human
experience, for which the teaching of the Bible is not an essential preparation. Studied and obeyed, the Word of God would give to the world men of stronger and more active intellect than will the closest application to all the subjects that human philosophy embraces. It would give men of strength and solidity of character, of keen perception and sound judgment—men who would be an honor to God and a blessing to the world.

In the study of the sciences also we are to obtain a knowledge of the Creator. All true science is but an interpretation of the handwriting of God in the material world. Science brings from her research only fresh evidences of the wisdom and power of God. Rightly understood, both the book of nature and the Written Word make us acquainted with God by teaching us something of the wise and beneficent laws through which He works....

The impress of Deity, manifest in the pages of revelation, is seen upon the lofty mountains, the fruitful valleys, the broad, deep ocean. The things of nature speak to man of his Creator's love.

Ellen Gold White, Reflecting Christ, pg. 115 – April 11

GOING DEEPER
“Blessed are those whose ways are blameless, who walk according to the law of the Lord.” Psalm 119:1. Happy is a person who lives according to the law of the Lord. The law does not give life (the only source of life is God), but it maintains life. The psalmist does not keep the law of God in order to be saved, but because he is saved. He lives the law, because he loves the Lord and is grateful for all His goodness. His life of love and gratitude to God is expressed by honoring God and living according to all His law and instructions. It gives joy, satisfaction, and peace.”


QUESTION...
How does the Bible describe the person that reads or hears the Word of God? Revelation 1:3

IN LETTERS OF GOLD
“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” John 13:34, 35

THIS WEEK’S HOMEWORK
1. Memorize: “Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.” James 1:22
2. Pray for the five individuals/families that you have delivered the health resource that they may be touched by the health message.
THE SECRET OF POWER

How can a young person stay on the path of purity?
By living according to your word. Psalm 119:9

MOMENTS OF PRAYER

☐ Pray for the items listed in your Prayer Journal
☐ Pray for the five individuals/families you chose
☐ Pray for God’s work in the British Columbia Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church
☐ Pray for you to receive the fruit of the Spirit: Joy

It is one thing to treat the Bible as a book of good moral instruction, to be heeded so far as is consistent with the spirit of the times and our position in the world; it is another thing to regard it as it really is—the Word of the living God, the Word that is our life, the Word that is to mold our actions, our words, and our thoughts. To hold God’s Word anything less than this is to reject it.

The Word of God is a character-detector, a motive-tester. We are to read this Word with heart and mind open to receive the impressions that God will give. We must not think that the reading of the Word can accomplish that which only He whom the Word reveals, who stands behind the Word, can accomplish. Some are in danger of hastening to the conclusion that because they hold firmly to the doctrines of the truth, they are actually in possession of the blessings which these doctrines declare shall come to the receiver of truth. Many keep the truth in the outer court. Its sacred principles have not a controlling influence over the words, the thoughts, the actions.

In this perilous day of evil, when allurements to vice and corruption are on every hand, let the earnest, heartfelt cry of the young be raised to heaven: “How can a young person stay on the path of purity?” And may his ears be open and his heart inclined to obey the instruction given in the answer: “By living according to your word.” The only safety for the youth in this age of pollution is to make God their trust. Without divine help they will be unable to control human passions and appetites. In Christ is the very help needed.
Truth must reach down to the deepest recesses of the soul, and cleanse away everything unlike the spirit of Christ, and the vacuum be supplied by the attributes of His character who was pure and holy and undefiled, that all the springs of the heart may be as flowers, fragrant with perfume, a sweet smelling savor, a savor of life unto life.

Ellen Gold White, The Faith I Live By, pg. 18 – January 12

GOING DEEPER

“First, the Word of God cleanses us as it separates us from this world and all of its uncleanness. Thus Jesus tells His disciples, ‘You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you’ (John 15:3). But, second, the Word of God also cleanses us as it directs us in the paths of righteousness. It not only separates us from the world; it also separates us to God. The Word works to bring us into the will of God.”


QUESTION...

How does the Word of God work in the life of the believer? 1 Thessalonians 2:13

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“The Bible is not merely a simple message from God saying, ‘I am here.’ It is a book of salvation history, a book of pure and absolute Truth, a book of Life, a book that explains for us our entire reason for existence. It is a book that lets us touch God and savor His words on a daily basis, a book that tells us Who He is and gives us instruction for acquiring wisdom, right living, and forming a relationship with Him.”

David Scott Limbaugh, Political Commentator and Author

IN LETTERS OF GOLD

“Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test?” 2 Corinthians 13:5

DID YOU KNOW?

On first reading, Psalm 119 seems exceptional for nothing except its length. Psalm 119 was not composed for the epic moments of life but for the 90 percent of time in which life is uneventful, even monotonous.

THIS WEEK’S HOMEWORK

1. Memorize: “Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.” James 1:22
2. Pray for the five individuals/families that you have delivered the health resource that they may be touched by the health message.
BORN OF THE WORD

For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.
1 Peter 1:23

MOMENTS OF PRAYER

☐ Pray for the items listed in your Prayer Journal
☐ Pray for the five individuals/families you chose
☐ Pray for ADRA Canada – Adventist Development and Relief Agency
☐ Pray for you to receive the fruit of the Spirit: Patience

The change of heart by which we become children of God is in the Bible spoken of as birth. Again, it is compared to the germination of the good seed sown by the husbandman.... So from natural life, illustrations are drawn, to help us better to understand the mysterious truths of spiritual life. Not all the wisdom and skill of man can produce life in the smallest object in nature. It is only through the life which God Himself has imparted, that either plant or animal can live. So it is only through the life from God that spiritual life is begotten in the hearts of men.

When truth becomes an abiding principle in the life, the soul is “born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.” This new birth is the result of receiving Christ as the word of God. Then by the Holy Spirit divine truths are impressed upon the heart, new conceptions are awakened, and the energies hitherto dormant are aroused to cooperate with God.... Christ was the revealer of truth to the world. By Him the incorruptible seed — the Word of God — was sown in the hearts of men.

The Word destroys the natural, earthly nature, and imparts a new life in Christ Jesus. The Holy Spirit comes to the soul as a Comforter. By the transforming agency of His grace, the image of God is reproduced in the disciple; he becomes a new creature. Love takes the place of hatred, and the heart receives the divine similitude.
Henceforth you are not your own; you are brought with a price. “Ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, ... but with the precious blood of Christ....” 1 Peter 1:18, 19. Through this simple act of believing God, the Holy Spirit has begotten a new life in your heart. You are as a child born into the family of God, and He loves you as He loves His Son.


GOING DEEPER
The Word of God brings you the blessing of life (Psalm 119:25) because it has life (Heb. 4:12), imparts life (1 Pet. 1:23–25), and nourishes life (1 Pet. 2:1–3). God’s Word can revive and strengthen you (v. 28), even when you are in the dust. Nine times in this psalm the writer prayed for new life from the Lord (vv. 25, 37, 40, 88, 107, 149, 154, 156, 159). No need to stay in the dust when there is life for you in the Word of God!


QUESTION...
What is it that can cleanse the lives of believers in Christ? John 15:3

QUOTE OF THE DAY
“One of these days some simple soul will pick up the Book of God, read it, and believe it. Then the rest of us will be embarrassed. We have adopted the convenient theory that the Bible is a Book to be explained, whereas first and foremost it is a Book to be believed (and after that to be obeyed).”

Leonard Ravenhill, Evangelist and Author

DID YOU KNOW?
Each verse of the Psalm 119 has one of eight synonyms for law, except that verse 90 has a ninth synonym and verse 122 none at all.

IN LETTERS OF GOLD
“By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. 11 For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.” 1 Corinthians 3:10, 11

THIS WEEK’S HOMEWORK
1. Memorize: “Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.” James 1:22
2. Pray for the five individuals/families that you have delivered the health resource that they may be touched by the health message.
THE BIBLE REVEALS THE WAY TO CHRIST

Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart. For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. For, “All people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord endures forever.”

And this is the word that was preached to you. 1 Peter 1:22-25

MOMENTS OF PRAYER

☐ Pray for the items listed in your Prayer Journal
☐ Pray for the five individuals/families you chose
☐ Pray for Burman University
☐ Pray for you to receive the fruit of the Spirit: Kindness

The blessed Bible gives us a knowledge of the great plan of salvation, and shows us how every individual may have eternal life. Who is the author of the Book? Jesus Christ. He is the True Witness, and He says to His own, “I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.” The Bible is to show us the way to Christ, and in Christ eternal life is revealed. Jesus said to the Jews and to those who pressed about Him in great multitudes, “Search the scriptures.” The Jews had the Word in the Old Testament, but they had so mingled it with human opinions, that its truths were mystified, and the will of God to human beings was covered up. The religious teachers of the people are following their example in this age.

Though the Jews had the Scriptures which testified of Christ, they were not able to discern Christ in the Scriptures; and although we have the Old and the New Testament, people today wrest the Scriptures to evade their truths; and in their interpretations of the Scriptures, they teach, as did the Pharisees, the maxims and traditions
of humanity for the commandments of God. In Christ’s day the religious leaders had so long presented human ideas before the people, that the teaching of Christ was in every way opposed to their theories and practice.

His sermon on the mount virtually contradicted the doctrines of the self-righteous scribes and Pharisees. They had so misrepresented God that He was looked upon as a stern judge, incapable of compassion, mercy, and love. They presented to the people endless maxims and traditions as proceeding from God, when they had no “Thus saith the Lord” for their authority. Though they professed to know and to worship the true and living God, they wholly misrepresented Him; and the character of God, as represented by His Son, was as an original subject, a new gift to the world. Christ made every effort so to sweep away the misrepresentations of Satan, that the confidence of people in the love of God might be restored.

Ellen Gold White, To Be Like Jesus, pg. 128 – April 28

GOING DEEPER

God has revealed such an infinity of mercy in His Word that it would be impossible to conceive of more. See how the psalmist dwells upon his favor and mercy (Psalm 119:58); he feels his own unworthiness. He remains a suppliant, though he knows that he has all things in his God. The confidence of faith makes us bold in prayer, but it never teaches us to live without prayer, or justifies us in being other than humble beggars at mercy’s gate.


QUESTION...

What did Christ say is the seed of the kingdom of God?

*Luke 8:11*

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“The Bible is a record of sin, deceit, immorality of every kind, disobedience, hypocrisy and God’s amazing grace and love. The heroes we admire were people just like us. They failed miserably at times, they sinned regularly, and yet they found love, acceptance, forgiveness and mercy to be the free gifts of God. His love drew them into intimate relationship with Him, empowered them to do great things, and taught them to enjoy the life that He has provided.”

Joyce Meyer, American Evangelical Preacher and Author

DID YOU KNOW?

The Ortodox have a tradition that King David used Psalm 119 to teach his young son Solomon the alphabet — but not just the alphabet for writing letters: the alphabet of the spiritual life. They believe that Psalm 119 is a psalm written by David.

IN LETTERS OF GOLD

“If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person’s work.” 1 Corinthians 3:12, 13

THIS WEEK’S HOMEWORK

1. Memorize: “Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.” James 1:22
2. Pray for the five individuals/families that you have delivered the health resource that they may be touched by the health message.
THE SCRIPTURES SAFEGUARD AGAINST DECEPTION

To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them. Isaiah 8:20 NKJV

MOMENTS OF PRAYER

☐ Pray for the items listed in your Prayer Journal
☐ Pray for the five individuals/families you chose
☐ Pray for Christian Record Services
☐ Pray for you to receive the fruit of the Spirit: Goodness

The people of God are directed to the Scriptures as their safeguard against the influence of false teachers and the delusive power of spirits of darkness. Satan employs every possible device to prevent men from obtaining a knowledge of the Bible; for its plain utterances reveal his deceptions.... So closely will the counterfeit resemble the true that it will be impossible to distinguish between them except by the Holy Scriptures. By their testimony every statement and every miracle must be tested.

Those who endeavor to obey all the commandments of God will be opposed and derided. They can stand only in God. In order to endure the trial before them, they must understand the will of God as revealed in His Word; they can honor Him only as they have a right conception of His character, government, and purposes, and act in accordance with them. None but those who have fortified the mind with the truths of the Bible will stand through the last great conflict....

The apostle Paul declared, looking down to the last days: “The time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine” (2 Timothy 4:3). That time has fully come. The multitudes do not want Bible truth, because it interferes with the desires of the sinful, world-loving heart; and Satan supplies the deceptions which they love.
But God will have a people upon the earth to maintain the Bible, and the Bible only, as the standard of all doctrines and the basis of all reforms. The opinions of learned men, the deductions of science, the creeds or decisions of ecclesiastical councils, as numerous and discordant as are the churches which they represent, the voice of the majority—not one nor all of these should be regarded as evidence for or against any point of religious faith. Before accepting any doctrine or precept, we should demand a plain “Thus saith the Lord” in its support.

Satan is constantly endeavoring to attract attention to man in the place of God. He leads the people to look to bishops, to pastors, to professors of theology, as their guides, instead of searching the Scriptures to learn their duty for themselves. Then, by controlling the minds of these leaders, he can influence the multitudes according to his will.

When Christ came to speak the words of life, the common people heard Him gladly; and many, even of the priests and rulers, believed on Him.

Ellen Gold White, Reflecting Jesus, pg. 369 – December 21

GOING DEEPER

If “faithfulness” in verse 90 of Psalm 119 refers to God’s Word, then these verses are saying that because God’s Word is eternal in heaven, it can also clearly be depended upon on earth. If it refers to a separate attribute of God, then they are saying that three things are eternal: God’s Word in heaven; God’s faithfulness on earth; and the laws of God that, like the heavens and the earth, endure “to this day.” The laws of God will endure even longer, of course, since, as the last and summarizing verse of this section states, they are “boundless” (v. 96).


QUESTION...
How can a young man cleanse his ways? Psalm 119:9

IN LETTERS OF GOLD

“Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them.” Acts 20:28-30

THIS WEEK’S HOMEWORK
1. Memorize: “Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.” James 1:22
2. Pray for the five individuals/families that you have delivered the health resource that they may be touched by the health message.
A LIGHT FOR MY PATH

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
Psalm 119:105

MOMENTS OF PRAYER

☐ Pray for the items listed in your Prayer Journal
☐ Pray for the five individuals/families you chose
☐ Pray for It Is Written Canada
☐ Pray for you to receive the fruit of the Spirit: Faithfulness

We all need a guide through the many strait places in life as much as the sailor needs a pilot over the sandy bar or up the rocky river, and where is this guide to be found? We point you ... to the Bible.

God, has given us His Word as a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Its teachings have a vital bearing on our prosperity in all the relations of life....

The Bible is the great standard of right and wrong, clearly defining sin and holiness. Its living principles, running through our lives like threads of gold, are our only safeguard in trial and temptation. The Bible is a chart, showing us the waymarks of truth. Those who are acquainted with this chart will be enabled to tread with certainty in the path of duty, wherever they may be called to go.

When faith in God’s Word is lost, the soul has no guide, no safeguard. The youth are drawn into paths which lead away from God and from everlasting life.

To this cause may in great degree be attributed the widespread iniquity in our world today. When the Word of God is set aside, its power to restrain the evil passions of the natural heart is rejected.

When God’s Word is made the man of our counsel, when we search the Scriptures for light, heavenly angels
come near to impress the mind and to enlighten the understanding, so that it can be truly said, “The entrance of thy words giveth light...” Psalm 119:130.

The Word of God is light and truth.... It is able to guide every step of the way to the city of God.

Ellen Gold White, The Faith I Live By, pg. 7 – January 1

GOING DEEPER

The nightly journeys of Israel were guided by a pillar of fire (Exod. 13:21, 22) — not only directing their course, but every step and movement (Numb. 9:15–23). Thus is our passage in a dark and perilous way irradiated by the lamp and light of the word. But except the lamp be lighted — except the teaching of the Spirit accompany the word, all is darkness — thick darkness. Let us not then be content to read the word without obtaining some light from it in our understanding — in our experience — in our Providential path. Did we more habitually wait to receive, and watch to improve the light, we should not so often complain of the perplexity of our path. It would generally determine our steps under infallible guidance; while in the presumptuous neglect of it — like Israel of old (Numb. 9:44, 45) — we are sure to come into trouble.


QUESTION...

What is the result of accepting the Word of God into the heart and life? Psalm 119:11

IN LETTERS OF GOLD

“I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel — which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God’s curse! As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let them be under God’s curse!” Galatians 1:6-9

THIS WEEK’S HOMEWORK

1. Memorize: “Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.” James 1:22
2. Pray for the five individuals/families that you have delivered the health resource that they may be touched by the health message.
WOULD YOU HAVE PEACE?
Consider the blameless, observe the upright; a future awaits those who seek peace. Psalm 37:37

MOMENTS OF PRAYER
- Pray for the items listed in your Prayer Journal
- Pray for the five individuals/families you chose
- Pray for Adventist Education in Canada
- Pray for you to receive the fruit of the Spirit: Gentleness

The peace of Christ is not a boisterous, untamable element made manifest in loud voices and bodily exercises. The peace of Christ is an intelligent peace, and it does not make those who possess it bear the marks of fanaticism and extravagance. It is not a rambling impulse, but an emanation from God. When the Savior imparts His peace to the soul, the heart will be in perfect harmony with the Word of God, for the Spirit and the Word agree. The Lord honors His Word in all His dealings with humanity. It is His own will, His own voice, that is revealed to them, and He has no new will, no new truth, aside from His Word to unfold to His children. If you have a wonderful experience that is not in harmony with the expressed directions of God’s Word, you may well doubt it; for its origin is not from above. The peace of Christ comes through the knowledge of Jesus whom the Bible reveals.

If happiness is drawn from outside sources and not from the Divine Fount, it will be as changeable as varying circumstances can make it; but the peace of Christ is a constant and abiding peace. It does not depend on any circumstance in life, on the amount of worldly goods, or the number of earthly friends. Christ is the fountain of living waters, and happiness and peace drawn from Him will never fail, for He is a wellspring of life. Those who trust in Him can say, “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.”...
es; but Jesus bore the guilt of Adam, and all the children of Adam that will flee to Christ, the second Adam, may escape the penalty of transgression. Jesus regained heaven for us by bearing the test that Adam failed to endure, for He obeyed the law perfectly, and all who have a right conception of the plan of redemption will see that they cannot be saved while in transgression of God’s holy precepts. They must cease to transgress the law, and lay hold on the promises of God that are available for us through the merits of Christ.

Our faith is not to stand in human ability but in the power of God.... Christ must be our strength and our refuge.... Pure, living religion is found in obedience to every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.

Ellen Gold White, From The Heart, pg. 299 – October 14

GOING DEEPER
In the Hebrew “peace” is the word shalom. Like “salvation” to which it is closely linked, shalom is a large, embracing word for the good that comes to one God favors. It has to do with personal well-being in all respects. On the spiritual level it embraces “peace with God” through the work of Jesus Christ. On the material level it can mean prosperity. On the personal level it has to do with a tranquil state of mind that comes from placing one’s entire hope in God’s Word. Alexander Maclaren speaks of it as encompassing “a restful heart, ... a submitted will, ... an obedient life ... [and] freedom from temptations.”


QUESTION...
What do we find in God’s Words? John 6:63

QUOTE OF THE DAY
“You Christians look after a document containing enough dynamite to blow all civilisation to pieces, turn the world upside down and bring peace to a battle-torn planet. But you treat it as though it is nothing more than a piece of literature.”

Mahatma Gandhi, Preeminent leader of the Indian independence movement in British-ruled India

DID YOU KNOW?
Blaise Pascal, the brilliant French philosopher and devout Christian, loved Psalm 119. He is another person who memorized it, and he called verse 59 ‘the turning point of man’s character and destiny.’ He meant that it is vital for every person to consider his or her ways, understand that our ways are destructive and will lead us to destruction, and then make an about-face and determine to go in God’s ways instead.

IN LETTERS OF GOLD
“What you have said in the dark will be heard in the daylight, and what you have whispered in the ear in the inner rooms will be proclaimed from the roofs. I tell you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more. But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after your body has been killed, has authority to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him. Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows’.” Luke 12:3-7

THIS WEEK’S HOMEWORK
1. Memorize: “Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.” James 1:22
2. Pray for the five individuals/families that you have delivered the health resource that they may be touched by the health message.
PERSONAL STUDY IS ESSENTIAL

Cause me to understand the way of your precepts, that I may meditate on your wonderful deeds. Psalm 119:27

MOMENTS OF PRAYER

☐ Pray for the items listed in your Prayer Journal
☐ Pray for the five individuals/families you chose
☐ Pray for Adventist Care Centers in Canada
☐ Pray for you to receive the fruit of the Spirit: Self-Control

The Bible is not exalted to its place among the books of the world, although its study is of infinite importance to the souls of men and women. In searching its pages the imagination beholds scenes majestic and eternal. We behold Jesus, the Son of God, coming to our world, and engaging in the mysterious conflict that discomfited the powers of darkness. Oh, how wonderful, how almost incredible it is, that the infinite God would consent to the humiliation of His own Son that we might be elevated to a place with Him upon His throne! Let all students of the Scriptures contemplate this great fact, and they will not come from a study of the Bible without being purified, elevated, and ennobled....

All over the field of revelation are scattered glad springs of heavenly truth, of peace and joy. These glad springs of truth are within the reach of every seeker. The words of inspiration, pondered in the heart, will be as living streams flowing from the river of the water of life.... Whenever we study the Bible with a prayerful heart, the Holy Spirit is near to open to us the meaning of the words we read....

The opening of God’s Word is always followed by a remarkable opening and strengthening of human faculties, for the entrance of God’s words giveth light....

If the pillars of our faith will not stand the test of investigation, it is time that we knew it, for it is foolish to be-
come set in our ideas and think that no one should interfere with our opinions. Let everything be brought to the Bible, for it is the only rule of faith and doctrine.

We must study the truth for ourselves; no living person should be relied upon to think for us, no matter who that person may be or in what position he or she may be placed. We are not to look upon any human being as a perfect criterion for us. We are to counsel together, and be subject one to another, but at the same time we are to exercise the ability God has given us to learn what is truth.

Each one of us must look to God for divine enlightenment, that we may individually develop a character that will stand the test of the day of God.

Ellen Gold White, From The Heart, pg. 31 – January 19

GOING DEEPER

The Bible being God’s Book is full of meaning in its minutest word; and is worthy of not merely the cursory, superficial reading, the careless skimming that most people give to it. That is all most of the other books, men’s books, deserve; any closer study than that is a waste of time. But the Bible, being God’s Book, God’s own Perfect Word, God’s inexhaustible storehouse of truth, in which are hidden the infinite treasures of the wisdom and knowledge of God, is worthy of the closest and minutest study. And it abundantly rewards such study, and that is one of the countless proofs that the Bible really is God’s Word. The more closely and microscopically you study this Book, the more you see and the more wonderful the blessing you get.

Torrey, R. A. (1921). The importance and value of proper Bible study how properly to study and interpret the Bible (pp. 34–35). New York: George H. Doran Company.

QUESTION...

What is it that God will let us taste right now? Hebrews 6:5

IN LETTERS OF GOLD

“For it is written: ‘He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’” Luke 4:10, 11

THIS WEEK’S HOMEWORK

1. Memorize: “And the words of the Lord are flawless, like silver purified in a crucible, like gold refined seven times.” Psalm 12:6
2. Take the invitation for the special outreach concert, that the church will be hosting, to the five individuals/families that you are praying for.
The Bible is its own expositor. Scripture is to be compared with scripture. The student should learn to view the Word as a whole and to see the relation of its parts. He should gain a knowledge of its grand central theme — of God’s original purpose for the world, of the rise of the great controversy, and of the work of redemption. He should understand the nature of the two principles that are contending for the supremacy, and should learn to trace their working through the records of history and prophecy, to the great consummation. He should see how this controversy enters into every phase of human experience; how in every act of life he himself reveals the one or the other of the two antagonistic motives; and how, whether he will or not, he is even now deciding upon which side of the controversy he will be found.

Every part of the Bible is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable. The Old Testament, no less than the New, should receive attention. As we study the Old Testament, we shall find living springs bubbling up where the careless reader discerns only a desert. The Old Testament sheds light upon the New, and the New upon the Old. Each is a revelation of the glory of God in Christ. Christ as manifested to the patriarchs, as symbolized in the sacrificial service, as portrayed in the law, and as revealed by the prophets is the riches of the Old Testament. Christ in His life, His death, and His resurrection; Christ as He is manifested by the Holy Spirit, is the treasure of the New. Both Old and New present truths that will continually reveal new depths of meaning to the earnest seeker.

Christ reproached His disciples with their slowness of comprehension.... After His resurrection, as He was walking to Emmaus with two of the disciples, He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scrip-
tures, so explaining the Old Testament to them that they saw in its teachings a meaning that the writers themselves had not seen.

Christ’s words are the bread of life. As the disciples ate the words of Christ, their understanding was quickened. They understood better the value of the Saviour’s teachings. In their comprehension of these teachings they stepped from the obscurity of dawn to the radiance of noonday. So will it be with us as we study God’s Word.

The work of explaining the Bible by the Bible itself is the work that should be done by all our ministers who are fully awake to the times in which we live.

Ellen Gold White, Lift Him Up, pg. 115 – April 11

GOING DEEPER
What kinds of goals might students of the Bible have? They should above all seek to allow the message of the Bible to come through to them; so that the power of the word may continually change their lives. But they should have other immediate and long-range objectives: gaining an overview of the Bible; mastering the teachings found in individual books; putting those separate teachings together into doctrinal understanding; becoming familiar with key words; acquiring an appreciation for the historical, cultural, linguistic, and geographical backgrounds of the Bible; and moving toward using the Bible in serving God.


QUESTION...
Who is behind the words of the biblical prophets? Jeremiah 1:9

IN LETTERS OF GOLD
“For God, who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God’s glory displayed in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.” 2 Corinthians 4:6-9

THIS WEEK’S HOMEWORK
1. Memorize: “And the words of the Lord are flawless, like silver purified in a crucible, like gold refined seven times.” Psalm 12:6
2. Take the invitation for the special outreach concert, that the church will be hosting, to the five individuals/families that you are praying for.
EXAMINE DILIGENTLY EVERY BELIEF

So I turned my mind to understand, to investigate and to search out wisdom and the scheme of things and to understand the stupidity of wickedness and the madness of folly. Ecclesiastes 7:25

MOMENTS OF PRAYER

☐ Pray for the items listed in your Prayer Journal
☐ Pray for the five individuals/families you chose
☐ Pray for God’s work with Youth Ministries in Canada
☐ Pray for protection against spiritual warfare

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

And there are many in the church who take it for granted that they understand what they believe; but, until controversy arises, they do not know their own weakness. When separated from those of like faith and compelled to stand singly and alone to explain their belief, they will be surprised to see how confused are their ideas of what they had accepted as truth. Certain it is that there has been among us a departure from the living God and a turning to mortals, putting human in place of divine wisdom.

God will arouse His people; if other means fail, heresies will come in among them, which will sift them, separating the chaff from the wheat. The Lord calls upon all who believe His Word to awake out of sleep. Precious light has come, appropriate for this time. It is Bible truth, showing the perils that are right upon us. This light should lead us to a diligent study of the Scriptures and a most critical examination of the positions which we hold. God would have
all the bearings and positions of truth thoroughly and persever-ingly searched, with prayer and fasting. Believers are not to rest in suppositions and ill-defined ideas of what constitutes truth. Their faith must be firmly founded upon the Word of God so that when the testing time shall come and they are brought before councils to answer for their faith they may be able to give a reason for the hope that is in them, with meekness and fear....

With those who have educated themselves as debaters there is great danger that they will not handle the Word of God with fairness. In meeting an opponent it should be our earnest effort to present subjects in such a manner as to awaken conviction in their mind, instead of seeking merely to give confidence to the believer.

Ellen Gold White, To Be Like Jesus, pg. 112 – April 12

GOING DEEPER
When many people approach the Bible, they jump from ob-servation to application, skipping the essential step of inter-pretation. This is wrong because interpretation logically fol-lows after observation. In observing what the Bible says, you probe; in interpretation, you mull. Observation is discovery; interpreting is digesting. Observation means depicting what is there, and interpretation is deciding what it means. The one is to explore, the other is to explain.


QUESTION...
How certain can we be that the word of God will accom-plish its purpose? Isaiah 55:10, 11

IN LETTERS OF GOLD
“For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”

2 Corinthians 4:17, 18

DID YOU KNOW?
“Biblical hermeneutics” is the study about how to study, understand, and interpret the Bible. Biblical hermeneutics is a very important topic for every Christian. The way a person understands Scripture will ultimately affect every aspect of his or her Christian life.

QUOTE OF THE DAY
“It will greatly help you, for understanding scripture: If you pay attention not only to WHAT is spoken or written, but also OF WHOM it was spoken or written, and TO WHOM, With what CHOICE OF WORDS, at what TIME (in history), WHERE (what country or town), for what PURPOSE, in what CIRCUMSTANCES; considering also WHAT IS SAID BEFORE (previous verses) and WHAT IS SAID AFTER (the following verses).”

[It a “translation” of John Wycliffe’s words into modern English]. John Wycliffe, English Scholastic philosopher and theologian

THIS WEEK’S HOMEWORK
1. Memorize: “And the words of the Lord are flawless, like silver purified in a crucible, like gold refined seven times.” Psalm 12:6
2. Take the invitation for the special outreach concert, that the church will be hosting, to the five individuals/families that you are praying for.
A TREASURE IN MY HEART

Accept instruction from his mouth and lay up his words in your heart. Job 22:22

MOMENTS OF PRAYER

☐ Pray for the items listed in your Prayer Journal
☐ Pray for the five individuals/families you chose
☐ Pray for God’s work with Pathfinder Club in Canada
☐ Pray for the Coming of Christ and Your Future with Him

It is of the greatest importance that you continually search the Scriptures, storing the mind with the truths of God. You may be separated from the companionship of Christians and placed where you will not have the privilege of meeting with the children of God. You need the treasures of God’s Word hidden in your heart.

All over the field of revelation are scattered grains of gold — the sayings of the wisdom of God. If you are wise, you will gather up these precious grains of truth. Make the promises of God your own. Then when test and trial come, these promises will be to you glad springs of heavenly comfort.

Temptations often appear irresistible because, through neglect of prayer and the study of the Bible, the tempted one cannot readily remember God’s promises and meet Satan with the Scripture weapons. But angels are round about those who are willing to be taught in divine things; and in the time of great necessity they will bring to their remembrance the very truths which are needed. Thus “when the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him.”

The heart that is stored with the precious truths of God’s Word is fortified against the temptation of Satan, against impure thoughts and unholy actions.

Keep close to the Scriptures. The more you search and explain the Word, the more your mind and heart will be fortified with the blessed words of encouragement and promise.
Let us commit its precious promises to memory, so that, when we are deprived of our Bibles, we may still be in possession of the Word of God.

Ellen Gold White, My Life Today, pg. 28 – January 24

GOING DEEPER
One of the most serious errors students of the Bible can make is to think that their labors alone determine what they will gain from Scripture. The divine Author of the Book is its ultimate Interpreter. The believer can count on the truth of 1 Cor. 2:12: “Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things freely given to us by God” (NASB) Those who know Jesus Christ as Saviour have the same Holy Spirit within them to illumine Scripture. Being regenerated is the first requisite to making sense of the Bible.


QUESTION...
What would be one of the greatest enemies of God’s Word? Mark 7:7-9

QUOTE OF THE DAY
“Let it be a settled principle in our minds, in reading the Bible, that Christ is the central sun of the whole book. So long as we keep Him in view, we shall never greatly err in our search for spiritual knowledge. Once losing sight of Christ, we shall find the whole Bible dark and full of difficulty.”

J. C. Ryle, Prominent writer and preacher

DID YOU KNOW?
Great differences exist between the way people in the Western world do things and think and the way people in Bible lands lived and thought. Therefore it is important to know the cultures and customs of peoples in Bible times. Often faulty interpretations stem from an ignorance of those customs.

IN LETTERS OF GOLD
“Who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. 1 Peter 1:5-7

THIS WEEK’S HOMEWORK
1. Memorize: “And the words of the Lord are flawless, like silver purified in a crucible, like gold refined seven times.” Psalm 12:6
2. Take the invitation for the special outreach concert, that the church will be hosting, to the five individuals/families that you are praying for.
TREASURES OF TRUTH ARE FOR THOSE WHO DIG
And if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God. Proverbs 2:4, 5

MOMENTS OF PRAYER
☐ Pray for the items listed in your Prayer Journal
☐ Pray for the five individuals/families you chose
☐ Pray for God’s work with Adventure Club in Canada
☐ Pray for personal renewal

Let none think that there is no more knowledge for them to gain. The depth of human intellect may be measured; the works of human authors may be mastered; but the highest, deepest, broadest flight of the imagination cannot find out God. There is infinity beyond all that we can comprehend. We have seen only the glimmering of divine glory and of the infinitude of knowledge and wisdom; we have, as it were, been working on the surface of the mine, when rich, golden ore is beneath the surface, to reward the one who will dig for it. The shaft must be sunk deeper and yet deeper in the mine, and the result will be glorious treasure. Through a correct faith, divine knowledge will become human knowledge.

No one can search the Scriptures in the spirit of Christ without being rewarded. When men and women are willing to be instructed as a little child, when they submit wholly to Christ, they will find the truth in His Word. If people would be obedient, they would understand the plan of God’s government. The heavenly world would open its treasures of grace and glory for exploration. Human beings would be altogether different from what they are now; for by exploring the mines of truth, they would be ennobled. The mystery of redemption, the incarnation of Christ, His atoning sacrifice, would not be, as they are now, vague in our minds. They would be, not only better understood, but altogether more highly appreciated....
The value of this treasure is above gold or silver. The riches of earth’s mines cannot compare with it. “The depth saith, It is not in me: and the sea saith, It is not with me. It cannot be gotten for gold, neither shall silver be weighed for the price thereof. It cannot be valued with the gold of Ophir, with the precious onyx, or the sapphire. The gold and the crystal cannot equal it: and the exchange of it shall not be for jewels of fine gold. No mention shall be made of coral, or of pearls: for the price of wisdom is above rubies.”

Ellen Gold White, To Be Like Jesus, pg. 110 – April 10

GOING DEEPER
The Bible is really an anthology of different types of literature. It is poetry, drama, epic, narrative, even fiction (e.g., the parables). Within this collection, however, is an internal unity. The Bible is homogeneous because of the plan of God, the centrality of Christ, the constant recurrence of key figures (God, human beings, Satan, angels, Israel) and issues (sin, death, life, moral choice, redemption). Within the overall plot (the Fall, and provision of salvation within time) there are many subplots. All of this is overarched by the constant movement of events from eternity to eternity. Furthermore, the whole Book is unified by quotation of the Old Testament in the New Testament and other relations between the testaments. But we should notice that these are all literary features in this largely literary work.


QUESTION...
What warning can be found in Proverbs 30:5, 6?

QUOTE OF THE DAY
“Apply yourself wholly to the text; apply the text wholly to thyself.”

Johann Albrecht Bengel, a Lutheran pietist clergyman and Greek-language scholar

DID YOU KNOW?
Although Hebrew poetry does possess some metrical features, the distinctive feature lies in the placing of ideas in relation to each other. This can consist of parallelism that is synonymous (where the two lines essentially repeat the same idea), contrastive (where the two lines give opposite ideas), or progressive (where the first line is advanced in some way by the second).

IN LETTERS OF GOLD
“For now we really live, since you are standing firm in the Lord.” 1 Thessalonians 3:8

THIS WEEK’S HOMEWORK
1. Memorize: “And the words of the Lord are flawless, like silver purified in a crucible, like gold refined seven times.” Psalm 12:6
2. Take the invitation for the special outreach concert, that the church will be hosting, to the five individuals/families that you are praying for.
EXPLORING THE MINE OF TRUTH

For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. 2 Peter 1:21

MOMENTS OF PRAYER

☐ Pray for the items listed in your Prayer Journal
☐ Pray for the five individuals/families you chose
☐ Pray for the Adventist Community Services (ACS) in Canada
☐ Pray for growth in Christ

Some have neglected the Bible under the erroneous impression that the indwelling of the Spirit was preferable to the study and guidance of the Scriptures. Such will be exposed to Satan’s snares and fatal delusions. The Holy Spirit and the Word are in perfect harmony. The Holy Spirit inspired the Scriptures and always leads to the Scriptures....

Everything in the religious world is to be tried by the Scriptures. “To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them” (Isaiah 8:20). The claimed enlightenment of the Spirit within is to be tested and tried by the Word of God, which is the detector of the pure wheat....

The mine of truth is to be explored interestedly, diligently. How often we find Christ applying the Old Testament Scriptures, expounding their truths, showing their spiritual character, clothing them with freshness and richness and beauty the people had never beheld before.... The truths our Saviour reveals in His exposition are capable of constant expansion and new and richer developments. While searching the Scriptures, the mind that is led by the Holy Spirit sees their Author, and by beholding is constantly brightening while looking at the Word. Thus the intellect aspiring to reach the standard of perfection becomes elevated to comprehend it....
The truth of heavenly origin is represented as “treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field” (Matthew 13:44) that he may work every part of it. In his persevering efforts he discovers concealed jewels and precious ore. He who labors wisely sinks the shaft deeper and deeper and discovers a rich and precious lode. He finds that the field of revelation is interlaced with golden veins of precious treasures and is indeed the storehouse of the unsearchable riches of Christ—light, truth, and life.

Ellen Gold White, That I May Know Him, pg. 195 – July 8

GOING DEEPER
The Topical Method consists in searching through the Bible to find out what its teaching is on various topics. It is perhaps the most fascinating method of Bible study. It yields the largest immediate results, though not the largest ultimate results. It has advantages. The only way to master any topic, is to go through the Bible, and find what it has to teach on that topic. Almost any great subject will take a remarkable hold upon the heart of a Christian man, if he will take time to go through the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, and note what it has to say on that topic. He will have a more full and more correct understanding of that topic than he ever had before.


QUESTION...
According to Jesus, why were the Sadducees wrong?
Matthew 22:29

QUOTE OF THE DAY
“The Bible is the greatest of all books; to study it is the noblest of all pursuits; to understand it, the highest of all goals.”

Charles Caldwell Ryrie, Christian writer and theologian

DID YOU KNOW?
It is said of Mr. Moody, that many years ago he took up the study of “Grace” using the Topical Method. Day after day he went through the Bible, studying what it had to say about “grace.” As the Bible doctrine unfolded before his mind his heart began to burn, until at last, full of the subject and on fire with the subject, he ran out on to the street, and, taking hold of the first man he met, he said: “Do you know grace?” “Grace who?” was the reply. “The grace of God that bringeth salvation.” Then he just poured out his soul on that subject.

IN LETTERS OF GOLD
“And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.” Mark 16:17, 18

THIS WEEK’S HOMEWORK
1. Memorize: “And the words of the Lord are flawless, like silver purified in a crucible, like gold refined seven times.” Psalm 12:6
2. Take the invitation for the special outreach concert, that the church will be hosting, to the five individuals/families that you are praying for.
TO GROW, STUDY THE WORD

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16, 17

MOMENTS OF PRAYER

☐ Pray for the items listed in your Prayer Journal
☐ Pray for the five individuals/families you chose
☐ Pray for Adventist Health Ministries in Canada
☐ Pray for growth in Wisdom

The teacher of the truth should advance in knowledge, growing in grace and in Christian experience, cultivating habits and practices which will do honor to God and to His Word. He or she should show others how to make a practical application of the Word. Every advance we make in sanctified ability, in varied studies, will help us to understand the Word of God; and the study of the Scriptures helps us in the study of the other branches essential in education.

After the first acquaintance with the Bible, the interest of earnest seekers grows rapidly. The discipline gained by a regular study of the Word of God enables them to see a freshness and beauty in truth that they never before discerned. Reference to texts, when speaking, becomes natural and easy to a Bible student.

Above everything else, it is essential for the teachers of the Word of God to seek most earnestly to possess themselves of the internal evidence of the Scriptures. Those who would be blessed with this evidence must search the Scriptures for themselves. As they learn the lessons given by Christ, and compare scripture with scripture, to see whether they themselves bear its credentials, they will obtain a knowledge of God’s Word, and the truth will
write itself on their souls.

The truth is the truth. It is not to be wrapped up in beautiful adornings, that the outside appearance may be admired. The teacher is to make the truth clear and forcible to the understanding and to the conscience. The Word is a two-edged sword that cuts both ways. It does not tread as with soft, slippered feet.

There are many cases where people who have defended Christianity against skeptics have afterward lost their own souls in the mazes of skepticism. They caught the malaria, and died spiritually. They had strong arguments for the truth, and much outside evidence, but they did not have an abiding faith in Christ. Oh, there are thousands upon thousands of professed Christians who never study the Bible! Study the sacred Word prayerfully, for your own soul’s benefit. When you hear the word of living preachers, if they have a living connection with God, you will find that the Spirit and the word agree.

Ellen Gold White, To Be Like Jesus, pg. 107 – April 7

GOING DEEPER
The meaning of a word in a passage should be determined by its immediate context.

QUESTION...
What advice was given to Joshua? Joshua 1:8

IN LETTERS OF GOLD
“‘We know he is our son,’ the parents answered, ‘and we know he was born blind. But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don’t know. Ask him. He is of age; he will speak for himself.’ His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders, who already had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. That was why his parents said, ‘He is of age; ask him.’ A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. ‘Give glory to God by telling the truth,’ they said. ‘We know this man is a sinner.’ He replied, ‘Whether he is a sinner or not, I don’t know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!’ Then they asked him, ‘What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?’ He answered, ‘I have told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples too?’” John 9:20-27

THIS WEEK’S HOMEWORK
1. Memorize: “And the words of the Lord are flawless, like silver purified in a crucible, like gold refined seven times.” Psalm 12:6
2. Take the invitation for the special outreach concert, that the church will be hosting, to the five individuals/families that you are praying for.
RESULTS FROM EATING THE BREAD OF LIFE
And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. 1 Corinthians 13:13

MOMENTS OF PRAYER
☐ Pray for the items listed in your Prayer Journal
☐ Pray for the five individuals/families you chose
☐ Pray for Adventist Children Ministries in Canada
☐ Pray for your immediate family; your relatives; spiritual concerns; emotional and physical concerns

We have an abundance of sermonizing. What is most needed ... is love for perishing souls, that love which comes in rich currents from the throne of God. True Christianity diffuses love through the whole being. It touches every vital part, the brain, the heart, the helping hands, the feet, enabling men to stand firmly where God requires them to stand, so that they will not make crooked paths for their feet, lest the lame be turned out of the way. The burning, consuming love of Christ for perishing souls is the life of the whole system of Christianity.

What is the Bible interpretation of God? “God is love.” By giving Christ to our world, God manifested His love for mankind. “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” Yes, “eternal life.” This is the love which is the fulfilling of the law. Only he whose heart is filled with compassion for fallen man, who loves to a purpose, showing his love by the performance of Christlike deeds, will be able to endure the seeing of Him who is invisible. He only who loves his fellowmen to a purpose can know God. He who loves not those for whom the Father has done so much know not God. This is the reason there is so little genuine vitality in our churches. Theology is valueless unless it is saturated with the love of Christ.

God is supreme. His love in the human heart will lead to the doing of work that will bear fruit after the similitude of the character of God.... “Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight
in evil but rejoices with the truth.” O blessed leaves of the tree of life! “And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.”

“Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name,” because our Guidebook is so very plain and definite. Others may not follow the plain “It is written,” which Christ used on every occasion to meet the fallen foe, but let us follow the Saviour’s example. The less we give expression to our own human opinions, the purer and more marked with grace will be our conversation. The Lord calls for sanctified speech, because it is a savor of life unto life.

Ellen Gold White, Lift Him Up, pg. 134 – April 30

GOING DEEPER

Many people tend to think of the Bible as a “rule book” or a “story book.” In reality, the Bible is a magnificent love letter in which God tells His children how He longs to care for them and bless them, forgive them and shower them with His mercy, and protect them from their enemies. His love letter also tells of His desires for them to live so that they might avoid the painful consequences of sin, and His desires to lead and guide them into ways of righteousness and ministry that will result in meaningful, fulfilling lives.


QUESTION...

What information does Revelation 22:18, 19 present to us?

________________________________________________

________________________________________________

IN LETTERS OF GOLD

“And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it. If you love me, keep my commands.” John 14:13-15

THIS WEEK’S HOMEWORK

1. Memorize: “or you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.” 1 Peter 1:23

2. Pray that the five individuals/families you chose, will attend the special outreach concert.
THE NATURAL WORLD SPEAKS OF THE CREATOR

Let heaven and earth praise him, the seas and all that move in them, for God will save Zion and rebuild the cities of Judah. Then people will settle there and possess it.” Psalm 69:34, 35

MOMENTS OF PRAYER

☐ Pray for the items listed in your Prayer Journal
☐ Pray for the five individuals/families you chose
☐ Pray for Adventist Personal Ministries in Canada
☐ Pray to receive spiritual insight

The same creative energy that brought the world into existence is still exerted in upholding the universe and continuing the operations of nature. The hand of God guides the planets in their orderly march through the heavens. It is not because of inherent power that year by year the earth continues its motion round the sun, and produces its bounties. The word of God controls the elements. He covers the heavens with clouds, and prepares rain for the earth. He makes the valleys fruitful, and “grass to grow upon the mountains.” It is through His power that vegetation flourishes; that the leaves appear and the flowers bloom.

The whole natural world is designed to be an interpreter of the things of God. To Adam and Eve in their Eden home, nature was full of the knowledge of God, teeming with divine instruction. It was vocal with the voice of wisdom to their attentive ears. Wisdom spoke to the eye, and was received into the heart; for they communed with God in His created works. As soon as the holy pair transgressed the law of the Most High, the brightness from the face of God departed from the face of nature. Nature is now marred and defiled by sin. But God’s object lessons are not obliterated; even now, rightly studied and interpreted, [nature] speaks of the Creator.

As divine truth is revealed in Holy Writ, so it is reflected, as from a mirror, in the face of nature; and through His creation we become acquainted with the Creator. And so the book of nature becomes a great lesson book,
which instructors who are wise can use, in connection with
the Scriptures, to guide lost sheep back to the fold of God.
As the works of God are studied, the Holy Spirit flashes con-
viction into the mind. It is not the conviction which logical
reasoning produces; but unless the mind has become too dark
to know God, the eye too dim to see Him, the ear too dull
to hear His voice, a deeper meaning is grasped, and the sub-
lime, spiritual truths of the written Word are impressed on
the heart.

The most effective way to teach the heathen who know
not God is through His works. In this way, far more readily
than by any other method, they can be made to realize the
difference between their idols, the works of their own hands,
and the true God, the Maker of heaven and earth.

Ellen Gold White, To Be Like Jesus, pg. 249 – August 23

GOING DEEPER

God is the omnipotent Creator, whom human beings need to
recognize and revere, and with whom they need fellowship
in order to have fullness of life. This message comes through
clearly in Genesis 1 and 2, as well as in the Sabbath com-
mandment of the Decalogue and in various other Sabbath
passages. The Creator provided the Sabbath as a blessing to
human beings, who need the special fellowship with their
Creator that the Sabbath memorializes and fosters.

(electronic ed., Vol. 12, p. 509). Hagerstown, MD: Review and Herald
Publishing Association.

QUESTION...

What is the source for absolute divine authority?
Psalm 119:89

DID YOU KNOW?

One example of the scientific evidence
for creation is the sudden appearance of
complex fossilized life in the fossil record,
and the systematic gaps between fossilized
kinds in that record. The most rational
inference from this evidence seemingly is
that life was created and did not evolve.

IN LETTERS OF GOLD

“If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask
whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is
to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit,
showing yourselves to be my disciples.” John 15:7, 8

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“Let us learn hence, (1.) That
atheism is folly, and atheists
are the greatest fools in nature;
for they see there is a world
that could not make itself, and
yet they will not own there is a
God that made it. Doubtless,
they are without excuse, but the
god of this world has blinded
their minds. (2.) That God
is sovereign Lord of all by an
incontestable right. If he is the
Creator, no doubt he is the
owner and possessor of heaven
and earth. (3.) That with God
all things are possible, and
therefore happy are the people
that have him for their God,
and whose help and hope stand
in his name, Psa 121:2.”

Matthew Henry, minister and author

THIS WEEK’S HOMEWORK

1. Memorize: “or you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and
enduring word of God.” 1 Peter 1:23
2. Pray that the five individuals/families you chose, will attend the special outreach concert.
WE ARE IN THE ENEMY’S LAND

Then war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him. Isaiah 12:7-9

MOMENTS OF PRAYER

☐ Pray for the items listed in your Prayer Journal
☐ Pray for the five individuals/families you chose
☐ Pray for Adventist Family Ministries in Canada
☐ Offer your expressions of thanksgiving to God in prayer

As the Lord’s people show their determination to follow the light that the Lord has given, the enemy will bring all his powers to bear to discourage them. But they are not to give up because of the difficulties that arise when they try to follow the counsel of the Lord. God has given us His work to do, and if we comply with His requirements, we shall be blessed....

The enemy is actively at work, as you will see as you travel on his territory, opening the Word of God to the people. As the last message of mercy is proclaimed by human lips, Satan will try to storm his way to the front. But he cannot prevail against Christ. As we present the truth that shows the people the evil of his delusions, his anger will be aroused, and he will do all in his power to hinder our efforts. But continue to present a “This is what the Lord says, “remembering that God is your helper. Do not give the enemy the right of way....

Satan was once the most glorious angel in the heavenly courts. But he allowed a desire for supremacy to take possession of him, and he was expelled from heaven. He came to this earth, and entered with great zeal into commercialism. And unless we stand loyal and true by the side of Prince Emmanuel, we shall be ensnared....

In the future, strange things will happen. I tell you this so that you may not be surprised at what takes place. We shall all need to maintain a close connection with the Lord. The end is much nearer than when we first believed....
Under the leadership of Satan there are men who today are doing all in their power to plunge the world into commercial strife. Thus Satan is trying to bring about a condition of things that will make the world uncivilized. He desires to see strange things acted out, which God, who is too wise to err, has not ordained. But the Lord, yes, our God, will be Ruler of the heavens and the earth. If men and women will carry out His requirements, it will be seen that He is Ruler, carrying out His divine will.

Ellen Gold White, This Day With God, pg. 309 – October 27

GOING DEEPER
From Genesis 3 to Revelation 20 the Bible pictures a great conflict between the rebellious forces of evil and the kingdom of God. That conflict is demonstrated from the very beginning in Genesis 3, when the serpent/Satan tempts humans to sin against God, and God promises restoration through a Saviour, who will destroy Satan and sin. The conflict continues all through the Bible. It shows how Satan worked to destroy the human race and God’s message of salvation. Thus the main story of the Bible has been called “The Cosmic Conflict,” or “The Great Controversy.” It focuses on the coming of God to this world in the person of Jesus Christ to provide a means of salvation for humanity, and shows how Satan worked to destroy Christ and His mission. The conflict climaxed when Christ allowed Himself to be killed on a cross. There, Satan displayed the depth of his horrible hatred and sin and appeared to win the conflict. But the moment of his apparent victory was really the moment of his actual defeat. It was at the cross that God made the ultimate statement of His love for sinful humanity. There Christ defeated Satan once and for all (Rev. 12:9–11). God’s plan of salvation became effective. Christ’s death made it possible for God to rescue a world of lost people who had been enslaved in sin by Satan and were destined to die eternally (Rom. 6:23).


QUESTION...
Who is behind the book Jeremiah? Jeremiah 36:2

IN LETTERS OF GOLD
Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an impure spirit cried out, ‘What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!’ ‘Be quiet!’ said Jesus sternly, ‘Come out of him!’ Mark 1:23-25

THIS WEEK’S HOMEWORK
1. Memorize: “or you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.” 1 Peter 1:23
2. Pray that the five individuals/families you chose, will attend the special outreach concert.
WHAT THE WORD IS TO US
Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. 2 Timothy 2:15

MOMENTS OF PRAYER
☐ Pray for the items listed in your Prayer Journal
☐ Pray for the five individuals/families you chose
☐ Pray for Adventist Men’s Ministries in Canada
☐ Pray for greater love and compassion for others

The Bible contains a simple and complete system of theology and philosophy. It is the book that makes us wise unto salvation. It tells us how to reach the abode of eternal happiness. It tells us of the love of God as shown in the plan of redemption, imparting the knowledge essential for all-the knowledge of Christ. He is the Sent of God; He is the Author of our salvation. But apart from the Word of God we could have no knowledge that such a person as the Lord Jesus Christ ever visited our world, nor any knowledge of His divinity, as indicated by His previous existence with the Father.

The Bible is not written for the scholar alone; on the contrary, it was designed for the common people. The great truths necessary for our salvation are made as clear as noonday, and none will mistake and lose their way except those who follow their own judgment instead of the plainly revealed will of God. The Word of God strikes at every wrong trait of character, molding the whole person, internally and externally, abasing pride and self-exaltation, leading that person to bring the spirit of Christ into the smaller as well as the larger duties of life. It teaches all to be unswerving in their allegiance to justice and purity, and at the same time always to be kind and compassionate.

The appreciation of the Bible grows with its study. Whichever way the student may turn, the infinite wisdom and love of God is displayed. To all who are truly converted, the Word of God is the joy and consolation of the life.
The Spirit of God speaks to them, and their heart becomes like a watered garden....

No knowledge is so firm, so consistent, so far-reaching, as that obtained from a study of the Word of God. If there were not another book in the wide world, the Word of God, lived out through the grace of Christ, would make us perfect in this world, with a character fitted for the future, immortal life. Those who study the Word, taking it in faith as the truth and receiving it into the character, will be complete in Him who is all in all. Thank God for the possibilities set before humanity.

Ellen Gold White, From the Heart, pg. 39 – January 27

GOING DEEPER
Salvation is the universal theme of Scripture. All other major themes are subdivisions or explications of it. The form of salvation varies, but the underlying structure is the same: God visits His people and delivers them from those problems or powers that imperil their existence. From the beginning, when God clothed the guilty and shamed parents of the human race, to the day when God’s people enter the New Jerusalem, God is viewed as dynamically involved with the deliverance of the human race. This is so much the case that the word “Saviour” is not only coordinated with the name “God,” but becomes a definition of it, a name for God. As God is the “God of our salvation” (1 Chron. 16:35; Ps. 79:9; Hab. 3:18), so He is called and sometimes addressed as “Savior” (2 Sam. 22:3; Isa. 43:3; 45:15; Jer. 14:8; Luke 1:47; “1 Tim. 1:1; 2:3; Titus 1:3; 2:10; Jude 25).


QUESTION...
What advice is given in James 1:22?

IN LETTERS OF GOLD
For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38, 39

DID YOU KNOW?
The salvation of humankind does not result from a divine afterthought or improvisation made necessary because of an unexpected turn of events after sin arose. Rather, it issues from a divine plan for man’s redemption formulated before the founding of this world (1 Cor. 2:7; Eph. 1:3, 14; 2 Thess. 2:13, 14) and rooted in God’s everlasting love for humanity (Jer. 31:3).

QUOTE OF THE DAY
“Salvation is far more than merely the forgiveness of sins. It includes the whole sweep of God’s purpose to redeem and restore humankind, and indeed all creation. What we claim for the Bible is that it unfolds God’s total plan.”

John R. W. Stott, preacher, evangelist and teacher of Scripture

THIS WEEK’S HOMEWORK
1. Memorize: “or you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.” 1 Peter 1:23
2. Pray that the five individuals/families you chose, will attend the special outreach concert.
And they went ... to the east of the valley in search of pasture for their flocks. They found rich, good pasture, and the land was spacious, peaceful and quiet. 1 Chronicles 4:39-40

God’s word is true philosophy, true science. Human opinions and sensational preaching amount to very little. Those who are imbued with the word of God will teach it in the same simple way that Christ taught it. The world’s greatest Teacher used the simplest language and the plainest symbols.

The Lord calls upon His shepherds to feed the flock with pure provender. He would have them present the truth in its simplicity. When this work is faithfully done, many will be convicted and converted by the power of the Holy Spirit. There is need of Bible teachers who will come close to the unconverted, who will search for the lost sheep, who will do personal labor, and will give clear, definite instruction.

Never utter sentiments of doubt. Christ’s teaching was always positive in its nature. With a tone of assurance bear an affirmative message. Lift up the Man of Calvary higher and still higher; there is power in the exaltation of the cross of Christ. It is the student’s privilege to have clear and accurate ideas of the truth of the Word, that he may be prepared to present these truths to other minds. He should be rooted and grounded in the faith. Students should be led to think for themselves, to see the force of truth for themselves, and to speak every word from a heart full of love and tenderness. Urge upon their minds the vital truths of the Bible. Let them repeat these truths in their own language, that you may be sure that they clearly comprehend them. Be sure that every point is fastened upon the mind. This may be a slow process, but it is of 10 times more value than rushing over important subjects without giving them due consideration. It is not enough that the student believe the truth for himself. He must be drawn out to
state this truth clearly in his own words, that it may be evident that he sees the force of the lesson and makes its application....

Never forget that the greatest lesson to be taught and to be learned is the lesson of co-partnership with Christ in the work of salvation. The education to be secured by searching the Scriptures is an experimental knowledge of the plan of salvation. Such an education will restore the image of God in the soul. It will strengthen and fortify the mind against temptation, and fit the learner to become a worker with Christ in His mission of mercy to the world. It will make him a member of the heavenly family, prepare him to share the inheritance of the saints in light.... The Bible becomes a lesson book such as God designed it to be, giving clear conceptions to those who strive to grasp its grand and glorious truths.

Ellen Gold White, Lift Him Up, pg. 217 – July 22

GOING DEEPER
The early Christian community known as the “church” is usually thought of as coming into existence at Pentecost, after Christ’s death and resurrection. Its growth and organization were a gradual process.


QUESTION...
According to Luke 11:28, who are the blessed ones?

IN LETTERS OF GOLD
“To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars — I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you. Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth. I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. The one who is victorious I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will they leave it. I will write on them the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on them my new name. Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” Revelation 3:7-13

THIS WEEK’S HOMEWORK
1. Memorize: “or you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.” 1 Peter 1:23
2. Pray that the five individuals/families you chose, will attend the special outreach concert.

QUOTE OF THE DAY
“A good church is a Bible-centered church. Nothing is as important as this – not a large congregation, a witty pastor, or tangible experiences of the Holy Spirit.”

Alistair Begg, pastor and writer

DID YOU KNOW?
From beginning to end the Bible is concerned with God’s purpose of creating a people for Himself, a people who would respond to Him in faith and obedience and who would be a source of blessings for all people(s).
Genuine conversion is needed, not once in years, but daily. This conversion brings man into a new relation with God. Old things, his natural passions and hereditary and cultivated tendencies to wrong, pass away, and he is renewed and sanctified. But this work must be continual; for as long as Satan exists, he will make an effort to carry on his work. He who strives to serve God will encounter a strong undercurrent of wrong. His heart needs to be barricaded by constant watchfulness and prayer, or else the embankment will give way; and like a millstream, the undercurrent of wrong will sweep away the safeguard. No renewed heart can be kept in a condition of sweetness without the daily application of the salt of the Word. Divine grace must be received daily, or no man will stay converted.

Test and trial will come to every soul that loves God. The Lord does not work a miracle to prevent this ordeal of trial, to shield His people from the temptations of the enemy.... Characters are to be developed that will decide the fitness of the human family for the heavenly home — characters that will stand through the pressure of unfavourable circumstances in private and public life, and that will, under the severest temptations, through the grace of God grow brave and true, be firm as a rock to principle, and come forth from the fiery ordeal, of more value than the golden wedge of Ophir. God will endorse, with His own superscription, as His elect, those who possess such characters....
The Lord accepts no half-hearted service. He demands the whole man. Religion is to be brought into every phase of life, carried into labour of every kind. The whole being is to be under God's control. We must not think that we can take supervision of our own thoughts. They must be brought into captivity to Christ. Self cannot manage self; it is not sufficient for the work.... God alone can make and keep us loyal.

Ellen Gold White, Our High Calling, pg. 215 – July 28

GOING DEEPER
In the Old Testament conversion is basically a turning or returning from one’s former course of life toward the Lord, the God of Israel. Israel often had to return to their God (Dt 4:30), either as individuals (Ps 51) or as a nation (Jer 4:1); foreign nations needed to turn to God for the first time (Ps 22:27). In the New Testament John the Baptist begins the call to conversion (Mt 3:2; Mk 1:4; Lk 3:3), giving a prophetic call for people to change their minds (which is the root meaning of the Greek term) in the light of the nearness of God’s kingdom. This change of life must include a change in actions to prove its reality (Mt 3:8; Lk 3:8). Jesus preached the same message (Mt 4:17; Mk 1:15), adding that since the kingdom had arrived in his person, obedience to him was part of the good news of conversion. Yet it was also bad news, for one would be damned if he failed to make this radical change (Mt 11:20; Lk 13:3, 5). Conversion is radical but also simple, for it requires the simplicity of a child who commits his whole self, not the calculating self-protectiveness of the adult (Mt 18:3).


QUESTION...
What is the Word of God able to do? Psalm 119:130

IN LETTERS OF GOLD
“These are those who did not defile themselves with women, for they remained virgins. They follow the Lamb wherever he goes. They were purchased from among mankind and offered as firstfruits to God and the Lamb. No lie was found in their mouths; they are blameless.” Revelation 14:4, 5

THIS WEEK’S HOMEWORK
1. Memorize: “or you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.” 1 Peter 1:23
2. Pray that the five individuals/families you chose, will attend the special outreach concert.
A BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY

If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. Instead, they were longing for a better country — a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

Hebrews 11:15, 16

MOMENTS OF PRAYER

☐ Pray for the items listed in your Prayer Journal
☐ Pray for the five individuals/families you chose
☐ Pray for Adventist Camp Ministries in Canada
☐ Pray for your health

A fear of making the future inheritance seem too material has led many to spiritualize away the very truths, which lead us to look upon it as our home. Christ assured His disciples that He went to prepare mansions for them in the Father’s house. Those who accept the teachings of God’s Word will not be wholly ignorant concerning the heavenly abode. And yet “eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him.” Human language is inadequate to describe the reward of the righteous. It will be known only to those who behold it. No finite mind can comprehend the glory of the Paradise of God.

In the Bible the inheritance of the saved is called a country. There the heavenly Shepherd leads His flock to fountains of living waters. The tree of life yields its fruit every month, and the leaves of the tree are for the service of the nations. There are ever-flowing streams, clear as crystal, and beside them waving trees cast their shadows upon the paths prepared for the ransomed of the Lord.
The grass will be a living green, and will never wither. There will be roses and lilies and all kinds of flowers there. They will never blight or fade or lose their beauty and fragrance.

The lion, we should much dread and fear here, will then lie down with the lamb, and everything in the New Earth will be peace and harmony. The trees of the New Earth will be straight and lofty, without deformity.

In the New Earth there are no chilling winds, no disagreeable changes. The atmosphere is ever right and healthful.

Ellen Gold White, My Life Today, pg. 454 – December 16

GOING DEEPER
The theology of the NT — or indeed Pauline theology — could be written around this theocentric concept of “newness” (καινότης, Rom. 6:4; 7:6), which is summed up in the statement, ἰδοὺ καὶ νὰ ποιῶ πάντα (Rev. 21:5; cf. Isa. 43:19, LXX Septuagint) “See! I make everything new!” In the new era brought by Christ, there is the new wine of the new age (Mark 2:22; Luke 5:37–38), the new covenant (Luke 22:20; 1 Cor. 11:25; 2 Cor. 3:6; Heb. 8:8, 13; 9:15; 12:24), the new creation/creature (2 Cor. 5:17; Gal. 6:15), the new man/humanity (Eph. 2:15; 4:24; Col. 3:10), the new song of redemption (Rev. 5:9; 14:3), the new name for believers (Rev. 2:17; 3:12), and the new commandment of love (John 13:34; 1 John 2:8). In the consummated kingdom there will be the new wine of the heavenly banquet (Mark 14:25), a new heaven and a new earth (Rev. 21:1; cf. 2 Pet. 3:13), and a New Jerusalem (Rev. 3:12; 21:2).


QUESTION...
How long does God’s Word stand? Matthew 24:25

IN LETTERS OF GOLD
“But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.” Philippians 3:20

DID YOU KNOW?
The new heavens and the new earth are a re-creation, a forming anew of existing elements, and not a creation ex nihilo.

QUOTE OF THE DAY
“The Bible says that as long as we are here on earth, we are strangers in a foreign land. There are enemies to be conquered before we return home. This world is not our home; our citizenship is in heaven.”

Billy Graham, Preacher and Christian Evangelist

THIS WEEK’S HOMEWORK
1. Memorize: “or you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.” 1 Peter 1:23
2. Pray that the five individuals/families you chose, will attend the special outreach concert.
CHRIST’S LOVE CANNOT BE MEASURED

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38, 39

MOMENTS OF PRAYER

☐ Pray for the items listed in your Prayer Journal
☐ Pray for the five individuals/families you chose
☐ Pray for Adventist Prison Ministries in Canada
☐ Pray for your spiritual life

Christ might, because of our guilt, have moved far from us. But instead of moving farther away from us, He came and dwelt among us, filled with all the fullness of the Godhead, to be one with us, that through His grace we might attain to perfection. By a death of shame and suffering He paid man’s ransom. What self-sacrificing love is this! From the highest excellency He came, His divinity clothed with humanity, descending step by step to the very depths of humiliation. No line can measure the depth of this love. Christ has shown us how much God can love and our Redeemer suffer in order to secure our complete restoration. He desires His children to reveal His character, to exert His influence, that other minds may be drawn into harmony with His mind.

Christ, our Saviour, in whom dwelt absolute perfection, became sin for the fallen race. He did not know sin by the experience of sinning, but He bore the terrible weight of the guilt of the whole world. He became our propitiation, that all who receive Him may become sons of God. The cross was erected to save man. Christ lifted on the cross was the means devised in heaven for awakening in the repenting soul a sense of the sinfulness of sin. By the cross Christ sought to draw all to Himself. He died as the only hope of saving those who, because of sin, were in the gall of bitterness. Through the agency of the Holy Spirit, a new principle of mental and spiritual power was to be brought to man, who, through association with divinity, was to become one with God.
To break down the barriers that Satan had erected between God and man, Christ made a full and complete sacrifice, revealing unexampled self-denial. He revealed to the world the amazing spectacle of God living in human flesh, and sacrificing Himself to save fallen man. What wonderful love! As I consider it, I weep to think that so many of those who claim to believe the truth are encrusted with selfishness....

I marvel that professing Christians do not grasp the divine resources; that they do not see the cross more clearly as the medium of forgiveness and pardon, the means of bringing the proud, selfish heart of man into direct contact with the Holy Spirit, that the riches of Christ may be poured into the mind, and the human agent be adorned with the graces of the Spirit, that Christ may be commended to those who know Him not.

Ellen Gold White, The Upward Look, pg. 191 – June 26

GOING DEEPER
It is important to see that the love that is the basis for our unshakable assurance is “the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” God’s love is expressed toward human beings in many different ways, especially in His gifts of creation and providence (Matt 5:43–48). But in the experience of many, these expressions of love are often overshadowed by such things as disease, poverty and natural disasters. But the love of God embodied in the cross of Christ (John 3:16; 1 John 4:10) is different. It is not affected by contrary circumstances. It alone endures as the solid rock upon which our hope and assurance can safely rest.


QUESTION...
What does the Psalmist affirm about God’s Word? Psalm 33:4

IN LETTERS OF GOLD
“Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord’s coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord’s coming is near.” James 5:7, 8

THIS WEEK’S HOMEWORK
1. Memorize: “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away.” Matthew 24:35
2. Contact the five individuals/families and kindly remind them about the special concert. Be mindful that this may be their first time at church. We suggest that you set a time and place to meet them before the concert starts.

QUOTE OF THE DAY
“Beloved, surrender wholeheartedly to Jesus Christ, who loves you. As you drink from the deep well of Scripture, the Lord will refresh you and cleanse you, mold you and recreate you through His Living Word. For the Bible is the very breath of God, giving life eternal to those who seek Him.”

Francine Rivers, Writer

DID YOU KNOW?
The sixteenth-century Anabaptists were a people who suffered much for their faith. They saw themselves as co-sufferers with Christ, and went to their deaths with confidence and hope. They took great comfort from the assurance that nothing would separate them from the love of God.
HELP ONLY IN CHRIST

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with My righteous right hand. Isaiah 41:10

MOMENTS OF PRAYER

☐ Pray for the items listed in your Prayer Journal
☐ Pray for the five individuals/families you chose
☐ Pray for Adventist Single Adult Ministries in Canada
☐ Pray for your local church

I know that all who are saved in the kingdom of God will have battles to fight against Satan; and I know that he will work every device to secure you to himself, for through you he could afflict us and weaken our courage and bring a burden of care upon us. But I am glad for every letter that we receive expressing your feelings of determination to press on and fight the good fight of faith. You say you love Jesus and mean to devote your lives to His service. Precious resolution!

The more you preserve your Christian integrity to know and understand for yourself the way of life and salvation, the less of the worldly mold will be upon you. The more you know of Jesus, the more you will desire to know, and the more ignorant you will feel that you are in regard to things of eternal interest. We want the right spirit, the teachable spirit, willing to learn in Christ’s school the lessons of humility and meekness. “Learn from me,” said the heavenly Teacher, “for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” (Matthew 11:29, 30).

It is when we seek to carry our own burdens and when we manufacture a yoke for our own necks that the yoke is grievous and the burden becomes heavy. We want Christ’s meekness; then little things will not irritate us. We may have zeal in working, but this is not all that we need. We want true Christian sympathy. We want self and our
will submerged in the will of Christ. We want an eye single
to the glory of God. We want to be continually anxious and
working for the honor and glory of God.

The soundness of our principles will be tested, and the
strength of our loyalty will be proved. I wish all could see as
I have seen the sharp, keen, persevering workings of Satan
to tempt and to deceive. His vigilance never relaxes. He has
ready access to souls because they are not attentive to heed
the warnings God has given them.... So many invite the ene-
my to tempt them. They walk so carelessly that they become
an easy prey. They throw wide open the citadel of the soul
and invite his entrance, place themselves in circumstances
where they will be entrapped....

We are to remain just the people God designed we should
be, gathering the divine rays of light from the Son of righ-
teousness, and diffusing these rays amid the moral darkness
that covers the earth.

Ellen Gold White, The Upward Look, pg. 34 – January 34

GOING DEEPER
When we live for God in this world, we stand out in an awk-
ward way. We even draw fire. But totally apart from any imag-
inied strength of our own, God is our Shield and Defender. So
let’s not chicken out. After we have demonstrated the value
of God by our suffering He knows what to do with all who
have tormented us. They will so utterly disappear, we’ll look
around for them in vain. The gospel says, “Do not be fright-
ened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and
that from God. For it has been granted to you, that, for the sake of Christ, you should not only believe in Him but
also suffer for His sake” (Philippians 1:28, 29). In the meantime, God will be there for us.


QUESTION...
What are the lessons the Lord wants to teach in Deuteronomy 8:3?

IN LETTERS OF GOLD
“Who, by the power that enables Him to bring everything under His control, will transform
our lowly bodies so that they will be like His glorious body.” Philippians 3:21

THIS WEEK’S HOMEWORK
1. Memorize: “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away.” Matthew 24:35
2. Contact the five individuals/families and kindly remind them about the special concert. Be mindful
that this may be their first time at church. We suggest that you set a time and place to meet them be-
fore the concert starts.
ONE LEASE OF LIFE

Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come and the years approach when you will say, “I find no pleasure in them” Ecclesiastes 12:1

MOMENTS OF PRAYER

☐ Pray for the items listed in your Prayer Journal
☐ Pray for the five individuals/families you chose
☐ Pray for the Ministry of the Sabbath School
☐ Pray for your local church leaders

Life is mysterious and sacred. It is the manifestation of God Himself, the source of all life. Precious are its opportunities, and earnestly should they be improved. Once lost, they are gone forever.

Before us God places eternity, with its solemn realities, and gives us a grasp on immortal, imperishable themes. He presents valuable, ennobling truth that we may advance in a safe and sure path, in pursuit of an object worthy of the earnest engagement of all our capabilities.

God looks into the tiny seed that He Himself has formed, and sees wrapped within it the beautiful flower, the shrub, or the lofty, wide spreading tree. So does He see the possibilities in every human being. We are here for a purpose. God has given us His plan for our life, and He desires us to reach the highest standard of development.

He desires that we shall constantly be growing in holiness, in happiness, in usefulness. All have capabilities, which they must be taught to regard as sacred endowments, to appreciate as the Lord's gifts, and rightly to employ. He desires the youth to cultivate every power of their being, and to bring every faculty into active exercise. He desires them to enjoy all that is useful and precious in this life, to be good and to do good, laying up a heavenly treasure for the future life.
It should be their ambition to excel in all things that are unselfish, high, and noble. Let them look to Christ as the pattern after which they are to be fashioned. The holy ambition that He revealed in His life they are to cherish — an ambition to make the world better for their having lived in it. This is the work to which they are called.

Only one lease of life is granted us; and the inquiry with everyone should be, How can I invest my life so that it will yield the greatest profit? How can I do most for the glory of God and the benefit of my fellow men?

Ellen Gold White, The Faith I Live By, pg. 167 – June 10

GOING DEEPER
God often uses trials to position us for greater blessing. Even in times of great disappointment, He has our best in mind. He knows how He wants to use the disappointment or hardship for our benefit, and He desires that we see Him as our only source of salvation and blessing.


QUESTION...
What can we learn from Psalm 130:5?

IN LETTERS OF GOLD
“I looked, and there before me was a white cloud, and seated on the cloud was one like a son of man with a crown of gold on His head and a sharp sickle in his hand. Then another angel came out of the temple and called in a loud voice to Him who was sitting on the cloud, “Take your sickle and reap, because the time to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is ripe.” So He who was seated on the cloud swung His sickle over the earth, and the earth was harvested. Another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and He too had a sharp sickle.” Revelation 14:14-17

THIS WEEK’S HOMEWORK
1. Memorize: “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away.” Matthew 24:35
2. Contact the five individuals/families and kindly remind them about the special concert. Be mindful that this may be their first time at church. We suggest that you set a time and place to meet them before the concert starts.

QUOTE OF THE DAY
“Everything that God wants to say to you is recorded in your Bible…straight from His heart to yours.”
Elizabeth George, Bestselling author and speaker

DID YOU KNOW?
While disappointments are inevitable, discouragement is a choice.
TRUST IN TIME OF TRIAL

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose. Romans 8:28

MOMENTS OF PRAYER

☐ Pray for the items listed in your Prayer Journal
☐ Pray for the five individuals/families you chose
☐ Pray for the Adventist Disability Ministries in Canada
☐ Pray for your local church elders

The Christian’s hope does not rest upon the sandy foundation of feeling. Those who act from principle will behold the glory of God beyond the shadows, and rest upon the sure word of promise. They will not be deterred from honouring God however dark the way may seem. Adversity and trial will only give them an opportunity to show the sincerity of their faith and love. When depression settles upon the soul, it is no evidence that God has changed. He is “the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever” (Hebrews 13:8). You are sure of the favour of God when you are sensible of the beams of the Sun of Righteousness; but if the clouds sweep over your soul, you must not feel that you are forsaken. Your faith must pierce the gloom.... The riches of the grace of Christ must be kept before the mind. Treasure up the lessons that His love provides. Let your faith be like Job’s, that you may declare, “Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him” (Job 13:15).

Lay hold on the promises of your heavenly Father and remember His former dealing with you and with His servants, for “all things work together for good to them that love God.”

The most trying experiences in the Christian’s life may be the most blessed. The special providences of the dark hours may encourage the soul in future attacks of Satan, and equip the servant of God to stand in fiery trials. The
trial of your faith is more precious than gold. You must have that abiding confidence in God that is not disturbed by the temptations and arguments of the deceiver. Take the Lord at His word....

It is faith that familiarizes the soul with the existence and presence of God, and when we live with an eye single to His glory we discern more and more the beauty of His character. Our souls become strong in spiritual power, for we are breathing the atmosphere of heaven and realizing that God is at our right hand.... We should live as in the presence of the Infinite One.

Ellen Gold White, That I May Know Him, pg. 258 – September 8

GOING DEEPER

Paul now adds another ground for looking confidently to the future. It is our knowledge that, according to the eternal purpose of God, all things contribute to the welfare of those who love Him. Even the troubles and suffering of this life, far from hindering our salvation, may help it forward. At every step the Christian may be in the hands of God and be carrying out the divine purpose.


QUESTION...

Where should we put our hope? Psalm 119:114

IN LETTERS OF GOLD

“There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God.” Hebrews 4:9

THIS WEEK’S HOMEWORK

1. Memorize: “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away.” Matthew 24:35
2. Contact the five individuals/families and kindly remind them about the special concert. Be mindful that this may be their first time at church. We suggest that you set a time and place to meet them before the concert starts.
CONTRITION, CONFESSION, COOPERATION

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9

MOMENTS OF PRAYER

☐ Pray for the items listed in your Prayer Journal
☐ Pray for the five individuals/families you chose
☐ Pray for the Adventist Prayer Ministry in Canada
☐ Pray for your local pastor(s)

The temptations of the enemy will come; but shall we give him the advantage to break down all the barriers, by yielding one iota from the strictest principles of integrity? If we yield in the least, he will follow one temptation with another, until we shall go directly contrary to the plainest statements of the Word of God, and follow the mind and will of Satan. Satan and his confederacy of evil angels are ever on the alert to see by what means they may ensnare and ruin souls who have enlisted under the blood-stained banner of Prince Immanuel. You did run well for a season, you did taste and see that the Lord is good; but when you fell into sin, you walked in darkness. When you yielded to temptation, you must have ceased to look unto Jesus, the author and finisher of your faith. But, having confessed your sins, believe that the Word of God cannot fail, but that He is faithful that hath promised. It is just as much your duty to believe that God will fulfil His word, and forgive your sins, as it is your duty to confess your sins. You must exercise faith in God as in one who will do exactly as He has promised in His Word, and pardon all your transgressions.

How may we know that the Lord is indeed our sin-pardoning Redeemer, and prove what is the blessedness, the grace, the love there is in Him for us? O, we must believe His word implicitly, with contrite and submissive spirit! There is no need to go mourning and ever repenting, and under a cloud of continual condemnation. Believe the Word of God, keep looking unto Jesus, dwelling upon His virtues and mercies, and there will be created in the heart an utter abhorrence of that which is evil. You will be among those who hunger and thirst after righteousness.
But the more closely we discern Jesus, the more clearly we shall see our own defects of character.

As we see our failings, let us confess them to Jesus, and, with true contrition of soul, cooperate with the divine power of the Holy Spirit to overcome all evil. If we confess our sins, we must believe that they are pardoned, because the promise is positive.

Ellen Gold White, This Day With God, pg. 89 – March 21

GOING DEEPER
To confess sins is not merely to admit that we are sinners, but to lay them before God and to seek forgiveness. If we do so, we can be sure of forgiveness and purification on the grounds of God’s character. He is faithful and just to forgive confessed sin. The faithfulness lies in His adherence to His promises that He will forgive His people: “Who is a God like thee, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of His inheritance? He does not retain His anger forever because He delights in steadfast love…. Thou wilt show faithfulness to Jacob and steadfast love to Abraham, as thou hast sworn to our fathers from the days of old” (Mic. 7:18–20).


QUESTION...
What important task had Paul assigned to Timothy?
1 Timothy 4:13

QUOTE OF THE DAY
...God’s grace and forgiveness, while free to the recipient, are always costly for the giver.... From the earliest parts of the Bible, it was understood that God could not forgive without sacrifice. No one who is seriously wronged can “just forgive” the perpetrator.... But when you forgive, that means you absorb the loss and the debt. You bear it yourself. All forgiveness, then, is costly.”

Leonard Ravenhill, Evangelist and Author

DID YOU KNOW?
Although the statement lies in a conditional clause, it has the force of a command or obligation: we ought to confess our sins, and, if we do, He is faithful and just....

IN LETTERS OF GOLD
“I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her Husband.” Revelation 21:2

THIS WEEK’S HOMEWORK
1. Memorize: “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away.” Matthew 24:35
2. Contact the five individuals/families and kindly remind them about the special concert. Be mindful that this may be their first time at church. We suggest that you set a time and place to meet them before the concert starts.
HEAVEN, THE CHRISTIAN’S SUMMER
While we wait for the blessed hope — the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Titus 2:13

MOMENTS OF PRAYER
☐ Pray for the items listed in your Prayer Journal
☐ Pray for the five individuals/families you chose
☐ Pray for the Adventist Ministerial Department in Canada
☐ Pray for God’s Kingdom to be established on earth

Christ is soon to come the second time. Of this we should often talk. It should be the uppermost thought in our minds. He is coming, with power and great glory, and every eye shall see Him. All the holy angels will accompany Him. Of this company John writes, “Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand” (Revelation 5:11).

The trumpet has not yet sounded. Those who have gone down into the grave have not yet cried, “Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” (1 Corinthians 15:55). The righteous dead have not yet been caught up with the living saints to meet their Lord in the air. But the time is near when the words spoken by the apostle Paul will have their fulfillment, “For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever” (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17).

In order for us to be like the Saviour, we must be changed (see Philippians 3:20, 21). Now is the time for us to bring into the daily life the virtues of Christ’s life. We have no time to lose. Should we fail in our character building, we shall lose eternal life. We must build on the true foundation.... We must do the work of Christ, and be constantly watching and praying. Then we shall be ready for His appearing, prepared to receive eternal life.
All who will can be overcomers. Let us strive earnestly to reach the standard set before us. Christ knows our weakness, and to Him we can go daily for help. It is not necessary for us to gain strength a month ahead. We are to conquer from day to day.

This earth is the place of preparation for heaven. The time spent here is the Christian's winter. Here the chilly winds of affliction blow upon us, and the waves of trouble roll against us. But in the near future, when Christ comes, sorrow and sighing will be forever ended. Then will be the Christian's summer. All trials will be over, and there will be no more sickness or death. “God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away” (Revelation 21:4).

Ellen G. White, The Upward Look, pg. 311 – October 24

GOING DEEPER

A deep yearning for the second coming of Jesus is present everywhere in the New Testament. It is related to hope for righteousness (Gal. 5:5), glory (Col. 1:27), resurrection (Acts 24:15), salvation (1 Thess. 5:8), and eternal life (Titus 1:2). It is based on God Himself (1 Tim. 4:10). Jesus promises to come again (John 14:3, 28). He announces His glory (Matt. 24:30) and pledges not to be the unrighteous judge who ignores those who cry to Him day and night (Luke 18:6-8). The endurance of those who trust Him to the end will not be in vain (Matt. 10:22).


QUESTION...

How is God's Word described in Ephesians 6:17?

IN LETTERS OF GOLD

“Then I looked, and there before me was the Lamb, standing on Mount Zion, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads.” Revelation 14:1

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“The Old Testament records the preparation for the coming of the Messiah. The Gospels record the coming of the Messiah, Jesus Christ our Lord. The book of Acts records the propagation of the gospel (the good news) concerning Jesus Christ. The Epistles (letters) explain the gospel and its implications for our lives. The book of Revelation anticipates and describes the second coming of Jesus Christ and the establishment of His eternal kingdom. From beginning to end, the Bible glorifies Jesus Christ and centers on Him. Its Christ-centeredness is one of its wonderful features.”

Josh McDowell, Christian apologist, evangelist, and writer

DID YOU KNOW?

The second coming of Jesus is a cardinal doctrine of Scripture, appearing already in the Old Testament. The “day of the Lord” was to be a dark day for the wicked, but a day of joy for those who love His appearing (Isa. 35:4). However, a full understanding of the Second Advent would only follow Christ’s first advent.

THIS WEEK’S HOMEWORK

1. Memorize: “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away.” Matthew 24:35
2. Contact the five individuals/families and kindly remind them about the special concert. Be mindful that this may be their first time at church. We suggest that you set a time and place to meet them before the concert starts.
ALL SUFFERING ENDED
He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away. Revelation 21:4

MOMENTS OF PRAYER
☐ Pray for the items listed in your Prayer Journal
☐ Pray for the five individuals/families you chose
☐ Pray for the Adventist Native Ministries in Canada
☐ Pray for your own salvation

Pain cannot exist in the atmosphere of heaven. In the home of the redeemed there will be no tears, no funeral trains, no badges of mourning. “No one living in Zion will say, ‘I am ill’; and the sins of those who dwell there will be forgiven” (Isaiah 33:24). One rich tide of happiness will flow and deepen as eternity rolls on.

The time has come to which holy men have looked with longing since the flaming sword barred the first pair from Eden, the time for the “redemption of the purchased possession” (Ephesians 1:14). The earth originally given to man as his kingdom, betrayed by him into the hands of Satan, and so long held by the mighty foe, has been brought back by the great plan of redemption. All that was lost by sin has been restored.... God’s original purpose in the creation of the earth is fulfilled as it is made the eternal abode of the redeemed....

There, “the wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them: and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose” (Isaiah 35:1). “Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree” (Isaiah 55:13). “The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; ... and a little child shall lead them” (Isaiah 11:6). “They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain” (verse 9), saith the Lord.
One reminder alone remains: our Redeemer will ever bear the marks of His crucifixion. Upon His wounded head, upon His side, His hands and feet, are the only traces of the cruel work that sin has wrought.

The great controversy is ended. Sin and sinners are no more. The entire universe is clean. One pulse of harmony and gladness beats through the vast creation. From Him who created all, flow Life and light and gladness, throughout the realms of illimitable space. From the minutest atom to the greatest world, all things, animate and inanimate, in their unshadowed beauty and perfect joy, declare that God is love.

Ellen Gold White, God’s Amazing Grace, pg. 361 – December 19

GOING DEEPER
There will be a new earth, new in terms of both time and form, different from the present one. Upon that new earth will be established a new and eternal kingdom ruled by the King of kings. The subjects of that kingdom will be those rescued from sin by God’s plan of salvation.


QUESTION...
How important is God’s Word according to Deuteronomy 32:46, 47?

IN LETTERS OF GOLD
“Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and His servants will serve him. They will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.” Revelation 22:1-5

THIS WEEK’S HOMEWORK
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2. Contact the five individuals/families and kindly remind them about the special concert. Be mindful that this may be their first time at church. We suggest that you set a time and place to meet them before the concert starts.

QUOTE OF THE DAY
“No matter what their differences on the details, all Christians who take the Bible as their final authority agree that the final and ultimate result of Christ’s return will be the judgment of unbelievers and the final reward of believers, and that believers will live with Christ in a new heaven and a new earth for all eternity. God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit will reign and will be worshiped in a never-ending kingdom with no more sin or sorrow or suffering.”

Wayne A. Grudem, Evangelical theologian, seminary professor, and author

DID YOU KNOW?
Expectations of divine rewards for those who do good on earth exist in almost all cultures and all peoples of the human race.
PRAYER JOURNAL

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