

God's Love Wins



SABBATH—JUNE 22

The Bible's last book, Revelation, gives us hope for today, tomorrow, and forever.

READ FOR THIS WEEK'S LESSON: Revelation 22:11, 12; John 14:1–3; *The Great Controversy*, chapters 39–42.

MEMORY VERSE: “I heard a loud [mighty] voice in heaven. It said, ‘Look! God’s house is now set up among the people. God will live with them. They will be his people and God himself will be with them. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. No one will die. No one will ever cry or be sad for any reason. No one will ever have trouble. The old things are gone’ ” (Revelation 21:3, 4, WE).

WE DON'T NEED TO FEAR the future. We have hope. For sure, we know that hard times are coming. We know we will suffer for our faith in Jesus. But because we have hope that a better day is coming, we can live today with joy.

Franklin D. Roosevelt was president of the United States from 1933 to 1945. Those years were some of the most difficult years in United States history. At that time, President Roosevelt's legs were paralyzed with polio. He couldn't walk without help. Roosevelt wrote, “We always have believed that a better life and a better future waits for us.” Albert Einstein was one of the smartest men who lived during the 1900s. He wrote, “Learn from yesterday. Live for today. Hope for tomorrow.”

In our final lesson, we will see Jesus' love for us during the most exciting time in the history of heaven. Jesus' love never fails. We also will see Jesus win the worldwide war between good and evil. The Bible's last book, Revelation, gives us hope for today, tomorrow, and forever.

HOPE DURING THE TIME OF TROUBLE (Revelation 22:11, 12)

What final things happen just before the Second Coming? Read Revelation 22:11, 12; Daniel 12:1, 2; and Jeremiah 30:5–7 for the answer.

We are now in a testing time. God tests everyone on earth. Soon everyone will make a final decision for Jesus or against Him. Then the testing time will end, and a time of trouble starts: “Things will be worse than at any time since nations [countries] began” (Daniel 12:1, NIV). In Revelation 16, God’s anger is poured out in seven last troubles. These seven troubles are poured on everyone who rejected Jesus. The seven troubles help us remember the ten troubles that God poured on Egypt. God protected the Israelites from the ten troubles. In the same way, God will protect His loyal people from the seven last troubles. Notice God’s promise in Daniel 12:1: “ ‘Everyone whose name is written in God’s book will be saved’ ” (ICB). What book is Daniel 12:1 talking about? The “book of life” (read Philippians 4:3; Revelation 13:8; Revelation 20:12, 15; Revelation 22:19). If we stay loyal to Jesus, He will not erase our names from His book of life (Revelation 3:5).

Read 1 John 3:1–3; John 8:29; and John 14:30. What is the only way we can be ready for the time of trouble?

We must have a relationship with Jesus. Our love for Jesus must be so deep and strong that nothing can change our hearts. With the Holy Spirit’s help, we can please Jesus in everything. When we obey Bible truth, the Spirit makes our hearts clean and holy, the same as Jesus.

What promises does God give us for the time of trouble? Read Psalm 27:5; Psalm 91:1–11; and Revelation 3:10–12 for the answer. How do these promises give us hope?

Some people misunderstand the Bible truth about how we will live through the time of trouble without a Helper. Yes, Jesus stops His work in heaven’s temple after all people make their final decision for or against Him. But Jesus promises us He will be with us always (Matthew 28:20). During the time of trouble, His Holy Spirit lives in our hearts. He will send His holy angels to protect us.



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JESUS IS COMING SOON! (John 14:1–3)

Read John 14:1–3 and Titus 2:11–14. When we think about the coming time of trouble, why are these verses so encouraging to us?

“Jesus said, ‘Don’t let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God. And trust in me’ ” (John 14:1, ICB). These words are a promise. Jesus never will leave us. He will come again to take us home. This earth isn’t our home. A better day is coming. Yes, soon the churches will work with the government to make laws that will cause us much suffering. In that dark time just ahead of us, Jesus’ soon coming will fill our hearts with hope.

Read Revelation 6:15–17 and Isaiah 25:8, 9. Compare the saved with the lost in these verses. How do the two groups think and feel? How are they different? What is the reason for their different ways of thinking?



“All the people in heaven and on the different planets always will be filled with wonder and love for Jesus because He saved us.”

The lost finally see that sin is awful, while the saved have accepted God’s gift of mercy. Sin leads to fear, guilt, and the loss of everlasting life. God’s mercy in the heart leads to our forgiveness and peace. We will feel joy at the Second Coming.

Read Revelation 15:3, 4 and Revelation 19:7. What song do the saved sing about Jesus? How do they think and feel about His gift of mercy?

“The saved will sing about the cross of Jesus and study His plan to save sinners forever. In Jesus the King, the saved will see the Savior who died for them. . . . Jesus made all the planets. He is in control of all life in heaven and on earth. This same Jesus gave up all His glory and honor to come to this earth. He loved humans so much. He chose to save them. All the people in heaven and on the different planets always will be filled with wonder and love for Jesus because He saved us.”—Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, page 651, adapted.

Read Revelation 12:17; Revelation 17:13, 14; and Revelation 19:11–16. What happens first in these verses? What comes next? What do these verses say about earth’s final fight and Jesus’ win over evil?

THE EARTH DURING THE 1,000 YEARS (Revelation 20:1–3)

Revelation 19 ends with the Second Coming. The lost are destroyed at that time. But the story isn't over. Revelation 20 introduces us to a period of time that continues for 1,000 years.

What happens to Satan at the Second Coming? Read Revelation 20:1–3 for the answer.

Revelation 20:1-3 contains word pictures. Satan is not really in chains and locked in a pit. For 1,000 years, Satan can't leave the earth. No one is alive at this time except Satan and his angels. So, Satan has no one he can lie to or trick. In 2 Peter 2:4, we read about what happened to Satan and his angels after they lost the war in heaven. "When angels sinned, God did not let them go free without punishment. He sent them to hell" (ERV). So, after the Second Coming, Satan will not be allowed to leave the earth for 1,000 years. He will see the mess that his war made.

In 2 Peter 2:4, WE, the word written as "hell" comes from a Greek word that means "deep dark hole." The Old Testament in the Greek language uses this same word to talk about how the earth looked before Jesus made everything: "The earth was completely empty. There was nothing on the earth. Darkness covered the ocean" (Genesis 1:2, ERV). In the Greek Old Testament, the word written as "ocean" is the Greek word "abyssos." "Abyssos" helps us to understand that there was no life on earth. So, "the deep dark hole" is not some underground cave or a big black pit located in outer space. No, "abyssos" explains how Satan's work of sin completely destroyed this earth before the Second Coming. Sin made this earth as empty and lifeless as it looked before God filled it with life and made everything in it in six days.

Read Jeremiah 4:23–26; Jeremiah 25:33; and Isaiah 24:1, 3, 5. What do Jeremiah and Isaiah say about the earth and how it looks at the Second Coming?

The earth is destroyed at the Second Coming. No person is left alive on the earth. Satan and his angels are left alone to think about all the evil that they caused.



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THE 1,000 YEARS IN HEAVEN (Revelation 20:4–6)

What do the saved do in heaven for 1,000 years? Why is that work important? Read Revelation 20:4–6 for the answers.

During the 1,000 years, the saved will get to examine how God solved the sin problem. Who doesn't have questions they'd like to ask God? During the 1,000 years in heaven, the saved get to ask these questions. If a loved one or close friend is absent from heaven, the saved will get the chance to understand God's decision more fully. In a new way, the saved will understand how much God tried to save every person who ever lived. The saved will understand that the lost missed out on heaven because of their own personal choice. When the saved finish inspecting God's work as Judge, then, and only then, will God punish evil people with the second death. The second death means the lost will be destroyed forever. They won't come back to life again.



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What happens at the end of the 1,000 years in heaven? What happens to Satan and his followers?

For 1,000 years, Satan has no one to trick or lead into sin. Satan and his angels have been all alone during this time. They've had 1,000 years to think about sin and the evil that it causes. At the end of 1,000 years, God wakes up the evil dead (Revelation 20:5). Then God gives them their final reward.

When God wakes up the evil dead, Satan feels hope. Now he can build an army. Satan lost fight after fight in the worldwide war between good and evil. But with a big army, Satan thinks he can win the war against God. Satan goes out to lie to the lost who woke up from the dead. Satan tricks them into believing they can fight one final battle against God. Satan promises them that when they win, they can set up their own kingdom. The words "Gog and Magog" are a symbol for Satan and the lost from all ages in history. Satan and his army go "all around the camp of God's people and the city his people loved" (Revelation 20:9, WE).

At the end of the 1,000 years, the Holy City, the New Jerusalem, comes down to earth from heaven (Revelation 21:2)! God also comes. So does Jesus, the angels, and all the saved. Everyone is there for the final fight between God and Satan. Sin is about to be destroyed forever!

THE FINAL REWARD FOR THE LOST (2 Corinthians 5:10)

Why does God wake up the lost from the dead? Read 2 Corinthians 5:10; Romans 14:10, 11; and Revelation 20:11–15 for the answer.

God must solve the sin problem forever so that evil never happens again. Everyone must be convinced that God was a fair Judge. In the end, everyone shall bow to God in agreement that He was fair in everything He did in the fight between good and evil. Satan and his evil angels will bow down, too. They will agree that they had no reason to fight against God.

“The books of record are open. Jesus looks at the lost. The lost remember every sin they did. They know just where in their past they rejected a holy and clean life. They see how much their pride and fighting against God caused them to break His law. The lost see how much they loved to do sin. They see the wrong use of the blessings that God gave them. They remember how they hated God’s messengers. They hated His warnings. They see how they rejected His mercy because their hearts were stubborn. They were not sorry for their sins. The lost see all these things as if they were written in letters of fire. . . .

“All the lost from Adam’s time until the end times stand in front of God. They are guilty of fighting against the government of heaven. The lost have no one to help them. They have no excuse for their crimes. God announces their punishment: everlasting death.”—Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, pages 666, 668.

Read Revelation 20:9; Psalm 37:20; and Malachi 4:1, 2. What do these verses tell us about the reward God gives to His people? What will be the end of sin and sinners?

Satan and his evil angels will be destroyed in the lake of fire. Sin and sinners will burn up. Revelation 20:9, 10 tells us that Satan, his evil angels, and sinners “will be punished day and night forever and ever” (ICB). Does this mean that they will never stop burning? Of course not! Yes, “forever and ever” always means endless, but only until something is completely finished. So, “forever and ever” means that when the lost burn up, they can’t come back to life. They will be destroyed forever. But they don’t keep burning forever without end.



In the end, everyone shall bow to God in agreement that He was fair in everything He did in the fight between good and evil.

ADDITIONAL THOUGHT: On the new earth “the plains are wide. They become hills that are beautiful. The mountains of God are tall. God’s people will make their homes on those peaceful plains, next to streams of water. . . .

“There, our minds will study the things God has made. Our joy will never end as we study about God’s saving love. Satan will not be there to cause us to forget God. We will use every skill and talent that God gave us. Our minds and bodies will not grow tired from our study. There, we will make plans and succeed at everything we choose to do. When we are done with those tasks, we will have new things to try and do. There will be new wonders for us to look at. We will discover new truths and new objects to study. We will need to use all the strength of our minds, spirits, and bodies to study these new things.”—Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, pages 675, 677, adapted.

“God’s children will talk with people from other planets. These people have never sinned. The feelings of happiness that God’s children feel when they talk with these perfect people is something that no one can put into words. These people from other planets will share their wisdom and joy with the saved from planet Earth. The people from other planets have many treasures of knowledge and understanding. They have gotten this knowledge from endless ages of thinking about all the beautiful things in nature that God has made. The saved now look with perfect eyesight at the beauty of all that God has made: suns, stars, and planets. All these things in outer space circle the throne of heaven. God’s name is written in all things, from the smallest to the biggest. The saved see God’s riches and powerful might in everything.”—*The Great Controversy*, pages 677, 678, adapted.



God’s people will make their homes on those peaceful plains, next to streams of water.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- ① Why do you think God allowed sin to go on so long?
- ② How does the 1,000 years fit into God’s plan to save sinners? We saw that God will not punish the lost until all the saved have a chance to examine God’s decisions as Judge first. What does this Bible truth tell us about God’s love and how fair He is?

A SAFE PLACE

Ukrainian pastor Vadym Krynychny had a big problem. He needed to find a building for his church in the city of Valencia in Spain. Vadym prayed. God answered his prayer. Soon, Vadym found a hall in the city center. The hall was big enough for 100 people and cost only 500 euros (\$550 dollars in U.S. money) a month. Vadym said, “The building is worth much more than we are paying for it.”

26 people started to meet in the hall for church each Sabbath. Vadym started many programs to invite the community to join them. The church held a get-together with a meal on Sundays. The church invited children who spoke the Russian language to come to special programs for kids. The church also held meetings during religious holidays. They held music concerts, too. People loved the concerts. They filled the hall. Often, the church needed to rent a bigger hall to fit all the guests who came.

The church became well-known in the local community. The church became a center for people who spoke the Russian language. About 80 percent of Spain’s 400,000 Russian-speaking people live in Valencia and along the nearby Mediterranean coast. At least 500 of these 400,000 people are Adventist.

The first person baptized at the new church was not from Russia. The woman was born in Iran. She grew up in the Muslim religion. She learned the Russian language after studying it for 12 years. The Iranian woman came to the church after someone invited her while she was walking down the street.

Soon 25 people were baptized. Several Adventist families gave their hearts to Jesus again. Each week, 65 men and women and 40 children came to worship at the hall on Sabbath. That was in 2021. At that time, the war in Ukraine started.

Vadym started a center for citizens who were trying to escape from the war. Two months after the fighting started in Ukraine, 200 Ukrainian people visited his church. The church gave the 200 Ukrainians food and shelter. About half of these Ukrainian people were Adventists. Since that time, Vadym has helped many more people.

Vadym says, “Many people who came to us didn’t know anyone in Spain. But they heard that we speak the Russian language.”

Vadym gives God all the glory for putting the church in the right place before the war started so that they can help people now. Vadym wants to share the hope of Jesus’ Second Coming with all the people who speak the Russian language in Spain.

Your 13th Sabbath Offering will help our church share the Good News in the area of Euro-Asia, where many people who speak the Russian language live. Thank you for your offering.

INSIDE Story

by ANDREW MCCHESENEY



The Iranian woman came to the church after someone invited her while she was walking down the street.

