

**STUDIES FOR
YOUTH INSPIRATION WEEK
MAY 24-30, 2015**

Being Ready



INTRODUCTION

“For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.” 1 John 2:16, 17.

Circumstances in today’s world are taking a turn that makes people’s hearts tremble for fear. Violence that was at one time confined to the evening’s news about some far-off place is now happening in one’s own town and even next door. Life seems much more fragile than it once was, and one’s thoughts may quickly change from planning for a supposedly peaceful life in a predictable world to coping with frightening things that once seemed unthinkable.

God’s people are blessed to have “a more sure word of prophecy.” In the studies for this Youth Inspiration Week, we want to consider, first, where the world is headed. This is not for the purpose of somehow trying to scare people into the heavenly kingdom, for fear is not a motive that can endure. Rather, it is to help us grasp how God will resolve the conflict between good and evil that is centered in this world. After that, we will study about the holy, eternal principles that are valid in all places and under all circumstances.

In 1966, Robert W. Olson prepared a compilation of the writings of Sister Ellen G. White, titled *The Crisis Ahead*, containing 21 chapters that constitute a list of the world’s final events. After reviewing that list, we will examine the concepts behind Jesus’ words in Matthew 24:44: “Be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.”

We want to know how to pass safely from this sinful world into the eternal kingdom of light. We serve a God of design, not a god of chance, so we can by faith be sure of our destiny if our trust is in God, even when this world and everything in it collapses and passes away.

The youth leader in every church is encouraged to print as many copies of this booklet as he needs so every young person has his or her own copy. Also, this Youth Inspiration Week is a good time to train the young people for service by giving them opportunities to express themselves fully and to lead the discussions. We also ask every local church, field, and union to support the General Conference Youth Department with regular offerings.

Studies for Youth Inspiration Week is prepared and published by the General Conference Youth Department, P.O. Box S, Cedartown, GA 30125, USA. Contact Joel Barnedo, General Conference Youth Leader, with questions: jbarned@yahoo.com / youth@sda1844.org. Website: www.uponhighplaces.org.

EARTH'S CLOSING HISTORY

THE END

What does God's word say about this world and its destiny? Note the main idea in each of the following verses.

Romans 5:12 _____

1 Peter 4:7 _____

1 Corinthians 15:21, 22 _____

Revelation 21:5 _____

According to Romans 6:23, what choice does everyone make?

BEFORE THE END

The chapter titles in *The Crisis Ahead*, compiled by Robert W. Olson, show a list of the events that will precede Jesus' second coming, according to the Adventist understanding of prophecy. In the following quotations, highlight the principles that apply to this understanding.

"The mark of the beast is exactly what it has been proclaimed to be. Not all in regard to this matter is yet understood, nor will it be understood until the unrolling of the scroll." —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 17; vol. 8, p. 159.

"Much upon these things has been shown to me, but I can only present a few ideas to you. Go to God for yourselves, pray for divine enlightenment, that you may know that you do know what is truth, that when the wonderful miracle-working power of Satan shall be displayed, and the enemy shall come as an angel of light, you may distinguish between the genuine work of

God and the imitative work of the powers of darkness.” -*Review and Herald*, December 24, 1889, p. 3.

“The solemn fact is to be kept not only before the people of the world, but before our own churches also, that the day of the Lord will come suddenly, unexpectedly. The fearful warning of the prophecy is addressed to every soul. Let no one feel that he is secure from the danger of being surprised. Let no one’s interpretation of prophecy rob you of the conviction of the knowledge of events which show that this great event is near at hand.” -*Fundamentals of Christian Education*, p. 336.

“None but those who have fortified the mind with the truths of the Bible will stand through the last great conflict.” -*The Great Controversy*, p. 593.

“Study your Bible as you have never studied it before. Unless you arise to a higher, holier state in your religious life, you will not be ready for the appearing of our Lord....

“Every position of our faith will be searched into; and if we are not thorough Bible students, established, strengthened, and settled, the wisdom of the world’s great men will lead us astray.” -*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, pp. 717, 546.

FINAL EVENTS

- UNITY OF THE CHURCHES
- NATIONAL SUNDAY LAW
- UNIVERSAL SUNDAY LAW
- LITTLE TIME OF TROUBLE
- MIGHTY SIFTING
- STANDING BEFORE RULERS
- SATAN’S MIRACLES
- SATAN’S PERSONATION OF CHRIST
- LATTER RAIN
- LOUD CRY
- APPLICATION OF GOD’S SEAL
- MARK OF THE BEAST
- CLOSE OF PROBATION
- PERFECTION IN CHRIST
- DEATH DECREE
- TIME OF JACOB’S TROUBLE
- GREAT TIME OF TROUBLE (PLAGUES)
- CHRIST’S COMING

The above list is not necessarily sequential, because some of the events will overlap and/or occur simultaneously. God will complete His plan for man’s salvation according to His divine will and purpose. There is no need to be afraid of anything or anyone but Him, for “the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do His commandments: His praise endureth for ever.” Psalm 111:10. Furthermore, all life is from Him and is in His hands. He says, “My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure.” Isaiah 46:10.

Share with the group your hopes and aims for yourself in the light of this study, as well as how you can support each other in the eternal hope.

TODAY'S PREPARATION

GOD'S MEANS

In the following Bible verses, search for some of the means that God uses to prepare for His kingdom all who desire with all their hearts to live forever with Him and with the heavenly beings in that holy, wonderful place.

Isaiah 30:20, 21 _____

Deuteronomy 5:31-33 _____

Psalms 32:8, 11 _____

Psalms 34:7-10 _____

John 14:26 _____

John 15:2-5 _____

FORMING ONE'S CHARACTER

Why is it so important to consider who we are and who we want to be? Read the following quotations, and discuss how each person's mind and character are formed.

"The mind will never cease to be active. It is open to influences, good or bad. As the human countenance is stamped by the sunbeam on the polished plate of the artist, so are thoughts and impressions stamped on the mind of the child; and whether these impressions are of the earth earthy, or

moral and religious, they are well-nigh ineffaceable. When reason is awakening, the mind is most susceptible; and so the very first lessons are of great importance. These lessons have a powerful influence in the formation of character.” -*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 143.

“There are various erratic characters that are wholly unlike Jesus, and that are within the church of Christ; but unless they will submit to become as clay in the hands of the potter, and will be willing to receive the heavenly mold, and be shaped into such vessels as God shall choose to make them, they will always bear their deformity of character, always be vessels unto dishonor, and will never receive the finishing touch of immortality. No deficiency of character will be immortalized and mar heaven with its imperfection.” -*Review and Herald*, November 20, 1894.

In this connection, discuss what happens in and to our minds (and ultimately to our characters), depending on what we look at, read, and hear, as well as how we choose to think, speak, and act.

WHO WILL INHERIT THE KINGDOM

Read the following Bible texts, and discuss who will and who will not inherit eternity.

Matthew 25:34 _____

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 _____

Matthew 5:3, 10, 19, 20 _____

Matthew 6:33 _____

Matthew 7:21 _____

Matthew 18:3, 4 _____

Sin and rebellion, which constitute the nature of Satan and are inherited by every human being who is born, would ruin the holy, happy environment of heaven, and therefore they will find no place there. Furthermore, sin cannot exist in the presence of a holy God. Therefore, when sin, iniquity, rebellion, and all wickedness are destroyed, all who cling to such things will be destroyed with them. The gospel of Jesus Christ deals with sin and removes it from one's heart according to his freewill decision.

TODAY'S BATTLES ARE PRACTICE FOR TOMORROW

Today's preparation includes engaging in the battle between light and darkness. Who is leading that battle on the side of light, and with what weapons do His soldiers fight? How can they know that they will win the battle? Give your thoughts about this in conjunction with the following verses.

1 Samuel 17:47 _____

Ephesians 6:10-18 _____

“True character is not shaped from without, and put on; it radiates from within. If we wish to direct others in the path of righteousness, the principles of righteousness must be enshrined in our own hearts. Our profession of faith may proclaim the theory of religion, but it is our practical piety that holds forth the word of truth. The consistent life, the holy conversation, the unswerving integrity, the active, benevolent spirit, the godly example—these are the mediums through which light is conveyed to the world.” -*The Desire of Ages*, p. 307.

TRUSTING GOD

GAINING EXPERIENCE

“The minds of many are not put to the task of studying, that they may comprehend the deep things of God; but self and ease and lazy habits must be overcome, if we would draw nigh to God, and have Him draw nigh to us. Our minds must be employed to the full, or we shall fail of obtaining the deep, rich experience that God is willing to give us.” —*Review and Herald*, December 3, 1889.

What does God say to do now so we will know whom to turn to when in difficulty? Discuss the concepts found in the following Bible verses.

Malachi 3:10 _____

Isaiah 1:18 _____

Judges 6:39, 40 _____

Psalms 50:15 _____

Romans 12:2 _____

1 Thessalonians 5:21 _____

CARRYING RESPONSIBILITIES

“God would have us students as long as we remain in this world, ever learning and bearing responsibility. We should be diligent and apt, and ready to teach others by precept and example that which we have learned;...” —*Review and Herald*, April 17, 1888.

What blessings come, and to whom, when one is willing to bear burdens for God? What does this have to do with learning to trust God? Share your thoughts about this in conjunction with the quotation below.

“My dear brethren and sisters in Iowa, the Lord is calling upon you to come to your senses. Awake to a realization of your responsibilities. God has given to every man his work. You have a most earnest work to do. You may live lives of usefulness. Learn all that you can, and then be a blessing to others by imparting a knowledge of truth. Let every one do according to his several ability, willingly sharing in the bearing of burdens.

“Let us in the name of the Lord press perseveringly forward in the race for eternal life. We have a great work to do in enlightening our own souls and in living up to a higher standard. Let us place a proper estimate on the preciousness of a knowledge of the truth. Then we shall have a clearer understanding in regard to God’s goodness to us and our obligations to others. While seeking to save the lost, let us keep our minds constantly uplifted in prayer for divine guidance. We are not to look to men, but are to behold Jesus. Let us not lose our spirituality. Christ desires His people to be greatly revived by the Holy Spirit.” -*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 16, p. 348.

Share an experience you have had in which God gave you special (supernatural) support in carrying out a task for which you were responsible.

But does this occur only once in a while? Read Philippians 4:13 and John 15:4-7, and look for the concept that God is supplying supernatural help to His children all the time and would supply much more if they would just ask for it. Then read and highlight the same idea in the quotations below.

“Our heavenly Father has a thousand ways to provide for us of which we know nothing. Those who accept the one principle of making the service of God supreme, will find perplexities vanish, and a plain path before their feet.” -*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 481.

‘Their warfare is not to be waged against flesh and blood, but ‘against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.’ Ephesians 6:12, R.V. They are to contend with supernatural forces, but they are assured of supernatural help. All the intelligences of heaven are in this army. And more than angels are in the ranks. The Holy Spirit, the representative of the Captain of the Lord’s host, comes down to direct the battle. Our infirmities may be many, our sins and mistakes grievous; but the grace of God is for all who seek it with contrition. The power of Omnipotence is enlisted in behalf of those who trust in God.” -*The Desire of Ages*, p. 352.

SUPERNATURAL SUPPORT-TODAY AND TOMORROW

It is important to view our lives through “spiritual glasses,” knowing that “We are engaged in a mighty conflict, and it will become more close and determined, as we near the final struggle. We have a sleepless adversary, and he is constantly at work upon human minds that have not had a personal experience in the teachings of the people of God.” -*Selected Messages*, book 2, p. 102. Discuss how to (1) “practice the presence of God” now in your day-to-day activities so you will (2) automatically trust Him both when something severe happens and when the final events break upon the world.

“It is in a crisis that character is revealed. When the earnest voice proclaimed at midnight, ‘Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him,’ and the sleeping virgins were roused from their slumbers, it was seen who had made preparation for the event. Both parties were taken unawares; but one was prepared for the emergency, and the other was found without preparation. So now, a sudden and unlooked-for calamity, something that brings the soul face to face with death, will show whether there is any real faith in the promises of God. It will show whether the soul is sustained by grace. The great final test comes at the close of human probation, when it will be too late for the soul’s need to be supplied.” -*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 412.

LOVE FOR HOLY THINGS

“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.” 1 John 2:15-17.

A DISRESPECTFUL, CARNAL WORLD

It is on purpose that the world’s societies are full of kitsch, mind-numbing music, raucous laughter, immorality, and vice, disrespectful of oneself, others, and sacred things, including God Himself. The god of this world has exploited sinful human nature, diverting men’s minds from holiness to wanton self-indulgence. Read the following verses, and share your thoughts about what God’s deep desire is for man.

Leviticus 10:10 _____

Nehemiah 13:17, 18 _____

Ezekiel 44:23 _____

1 Timothy 6:20 _____

1 Chronicles 16:29 _____

Psalms 97:12 _____

Matthew 7:10 _____

Romans 6:22 _____

Leviticus 11:44, 45 _____

1 Peter 1:16 _____

PRIMARY DIVERSIONS

Human desires and self-indulgence take many young people away from the church and even from God. Not finding what they are looking for within the ranks of God's people, they are attracted by young people of other faiths or no faith at all. God's call to spirituality can be trumped by the desire for a human relationship. And there are even greater things at stake. Highlight and share what you consider most important in the following quotation.

“What ought every Christian to do when brought into the trying position which tests the soundness of religious principle? With a firmness worthy of imitation he should say frankly: ‘I am a conscientious Christian. I believe the seventh day of the week to be the Sabbath of the Bible. Our faith and principles are such that they lead in opposite directions. We cannot be happy together, for if I follow on to gain a more perfect knowledge of the will of God, I shall become more and more unlike the world and assimilated to the likeness of Christ. If you continue to see no loveliness in Christ, no attractions in the truth, you will love the world, which I cannot love, while I shall love the things of God, which you cannot love. Spiritual things are spiritually discerned. Without spiritual discernment you will be unable to see the claims of God upon me, or to realize my obligations to the Master whom I serve; therefore you will feel that I neglect you for religious duties. You will not be happy; you will be jealous on account of the affections which I give to God, and I shall be alone in my religious belief. When your views shall change, when your heart shall respond to the claims of God, and you shall learn to love my Saviour, then our relationship may be renewed.’

“The believer thus makes a sacrifice for Christ which his conscience approves, and which shows that he values eternal life too highly to run the risk of losing it. He feels that it would be better to remain unmarried than to link his interest for life with one who chooses the world rather than Jesus, and who would lead away from the cross of Christ.” –*The Adventist Home*, pp. 67, 68.

TRUSTING GOD

Many young people have the thought that since God hasn't given them what they want, they need to go get it for themselves. Jobs and spouses are mainly what they seek. For the sake of earthly employment, some people sacrifice God's holy day of rest and His holy way of life. To have a spouse, they are willing to give up their faith. God would supply them with something much, much better in both of these areas if their hearts were not divided, but their love for holy things is weak. They are not willing to wait and trust His leading, so they end up caught in traps from which they are unable to free themselves. Explain how the holy principles found in the following Bible verses affect the Christian's life.

Proverbs 23:23 _____

Matthew 6:33 _____

Matthew 10:32, 33 _____

Matthew 25:8 _____

SMALL QUIZZES/BIG TESTS

Today's quizzes can prepare a person to pass tomorrow's tests—or not. It depends on what use one makes of them. It is possible to learn from mistakes made on a quiz and be ready for the test. If you choose to trust God in the small things in life today, you will be ready to trust Him in the big tests that will come tomorrow. Explain how profound and far reaching the basic principles given in the well-known verses below are.

Luke 16:10 _____

Matthew 16:25, 26 _____

LIVING BY FAITH

“For yet a little while, and He that shall come will come, and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, My soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.” Hebrews 10:37-39.

CHANGE OF MIND

To live by faith is to choose to walk according to God’s way. That is a totally different way of thinking—actually a transformation of the mind, according to the holy word, that is totally contrary to human nature. God does this for everyone who responds to the divine appeal, “Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light.” Matthew 11:28-30.

Read the following verses and share your ideas concerning other appeals God makes to man.

John 7:37 _____

Isaiah 55:1-3 _____

John 6:65 _____

CHANGE OF HEART

The natural, sinful human heart is fickle and self-centered, changing quickly from one selfish desire to another. God knows this and urges, “My son, give Me thine heart.” Proverbs 23:26. When we do that, He gives us a new heart (Ezekial 36:26) so we will not just follow our natural human desires, which are controlled by the power of evil, self-centered, and destructive. “When a sinner once beholds the love of the Father, as seen in the sacrifice of His Son, and yields to the divine influence, a change of heart takes place, and henceforth Christ is all and in all.” —*Conflict and Courage*, p. 341.

FOUR RELIGIOUS STREAMS

But faith is not just religion. The enemy of souls wants people to be religious, as long as they accept ideas that are opposed to real faith. All religion falls into one of four ways of thinking about how to obtain eternal life:

- **Works** (one must do something to avoid divine wrath and obtain divine favor–*paganism*)
- **Faith and Works** (one must accept the divine sacrifice and perform acts of penance and good deeds–*Catholicism*)
- **Faith Only** (one must accept Jesus Christ as his Saviour, and nothing more–*false Protestantism*)
- **Faith That Works** (when one accepts Jesus Christ as his Saviour, Jesus abides in him and performs His holy will in him–*God's church*)

In the following verses, find and share what Jesus does in His faithful children, how He does this, and what the results are.

John 15:4-7 _____

Philippians 2:13 _____

Exodus 29:45 _____

Leviticus 10:3; 26:9-12 _____

Psalms 18:2 _____

Psalms 91:15 _____

Matthew 25:23 _____

Faith means to believe something and act on that belief, which will ultimately determine one's destiny. The Biblical history of Israel shows what happens when one believes—has faith in—God and what happens when one does not. “So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.” Hebrews 3:19. Few of the people of Israel really believed God or even believed in Him, despite the amazing things He did for them.

VICTORY

Hebrews 1 lists what those who walked with God accomplished through faith. Their thinking and practices were totally opposite from those of the world. Select one example from that chapter, and share your thoughts about the contrast between success as God sees it and the success touted by the world.

Faith in Jesus Christ that is developed and practiced daily will take its possessor successfully through every trial. Make a list of what will be part of the victory of God's children during and after the final events in this world. Following are some Bible texts to use as clues. Underneath all of this is the question, “To me, what is truly valuable, when viewed in the light of eternity? Will I cherish the hope of God's word and faith in Jesus, or will I reject them for whatever reason?”

John 16:33 _____

1 John 2:14; 5:4, 5 _____

Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 26; 3:5, 12, 21 _____

VALUES → BELIEFS → EXPECTATIONS → ATTITUDES → WORDS → ACTIONS → HABITS → CHARACTER → DESTINY

ALL ALONE—WITH GOD

“I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people there was none with Me...”
Isaiah 63:3.

UPHOLDING TRUTH

Read the following quotations, and highlight and discuss what you consider the most important points concerning truth and standing alone.

“In his ministry, Paul was often compelled to stand alone. He was specially taught of God and dared make no concessions that would involve principle. At times the burden was heavy, but Paul stood firm for the right. He realized that the church must never be brought under the control of human power. The traditions and maxims of men must not take the place of revealed truth. The advance of the gospel message must not be hindered by the prejudices and preferences of men, whatever might be their position in the church.” —*The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 199, 200.

“If we place ourselves where we look to others to brace us and support us, if we depend on finite help, we do not really know our own strength because we do not stand alone, making God our helper. When thrust out where we have to stand alone, the taproot of our faith fastens upon the only sure support—the infinite God.” —(Manuscript 36, 1885) *Christ Triumphant*, p. 100.

PERSECUTION

In the following Bible verses and quotations, search for the secrets to how those who suffer persecution are able not just to endure but to rejoice in that experience. Share your thoughts about this in your youth group.

Matthew 5:12 _____

2 Timothy 3:12 _____

Psalms 5:11, 12 _____

Ecclesiastes 2:16 _____

2 Corinthians 12:9, 10 _____

Hebrews 12:2 _____

“When Jesus ascended to heaven, He appointed men as His representatives to carry forward, in His name, the work which He had begun, promising them that, as they engaged in this work, they should have special help and strength. In view of this promise, and the great love of God for man, it has been difficult for many to understand why He permits His followers to suffer as the martyrs did through the Satanic cruelty of men professing to be the successors of Christ. This question troubled me for years. But when I saw how the angels of God hovered over these precious jewels, even as they hovered over the cross of Christ, my feelings were changed. By faith these faithful ones saw the crown of immortal glory, the white robe, and the palm branch of victory, and Jesus, their loved Commander, watching over them. I then understood why our heavenly Father permits temptations, trials, and afflictions, to come to His loved ones. These are designed to give His children a deeper sense of His presence and providential care. They are also His providences, visitations of mercy, to bring back those who stray from His side. The peace that passeth understanding is not for those who try to shirk trials and self-denial. We cannot fully appreciate peace and joy in Christ, and the gift of eternal life, unless we are called to make some sacrifice to obtain these great blessings.” -*Review and Herald*, March 16, 1886.

“If we would enter into the joy of our Lord, in the kingdom above, we must here partake of His self-denial and sacrifice, drawing nourishment from the word of God, whose sustenance is as enduring as eternity.” -*Medical Ministry*, September 1, 1892.

“Not with sorrow, but with rejoicing, should they meet persecution. Each fiery trial is God’s agent for their refining. Each is fitting them for their work as collaborators with Him. Each conflict has its place in the great battle for righteousness, and each will add to the joy of their final triumph. Having this in view, the test of their faith and patience will be cheerfully accepted rather than dreaded and avoided. Anxious to fulfill their obligation to the

world, fixing their desire upon the approval of God, His servants are to fulfill every duty, irrespective of the fear or the favor of men.” –*The Desire of Ages*, p. 306.

THE MOST POWERFUL MOTIVATOR

When one is in love and is all alone, thoughts of his loved one or loved ones keeps his mind and body focused and strong. Stories are told about people who were lost and all alone at sea or elsewhere who kept going in the face of seemingly impossible odds because of the thoughts of their loved ones. Consider and discuss how and why God’s love is a powerful motivator when one is all alone in defending Him. Add to your discussion the concepts that inspire you in the Bible verses and statements below.

1 John 4:19 _____

Romans 8:37-39 _____

2 Thessalonians 2:16, 17 _____

“The Saviour lived on this earth a life that love for God will constrain every true believer in Christ to live.” –*Medical Ministry*, p. 23.

“Supreme love for God will lead to love for our fellowmen, and the commandment of Christ is, ‘Love one another as I have loved you,’ ‘By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples, if ye have love one for another.’ We cannot have this love unless Jesus is abiding in the heart by living faith. The very unity of disciples, the love manifested one for another, will be evidence to the world that God has sent His Son into the world as its Redeemer. This unity and love will exist wherever the Spirit of the Lord abides; heart will be bound to heart, and works of righteousness will appear in the daily life.” –*Signs of the Times*, April 13, 1891.

“Place yourself more habitually in that part of the temple of inspiration where the Holy Spirit of God will lavish upon you the richest currents of wisdom, which will then flow forth from you to others, magnifying God and increasing your love and hope and joy in the bright beams of the Sun of Righteousness.” –*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 21, p. 42.

GLORIFYING GOD—NONE ELSE

“And call upon Me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify Me.” Psalm 50:15.

Discuss what things people do to glorify (call attention to) themselves. Why do such actions lead to great unhappiness and even destruction?

HUMAN GLORIFICATION

The Bible gives some clear concepts about what sin has done to humanity. Find in the texts below and discuss the reasons why no human being has anything in which to glory.

Isaiah 1:5, 6 _____

Romans 3:23 _____

John 5:30 _____

Proverbs 27:2 _____

1 Corinthians 3:21 _____

Jeremiah 9:23, 24 _____

“Satan works to interpose himself between God and man, so that the affections, the gifts and offerings of human agents, shall be turned into human channels rather than into the divine.” -*Medical Missionary*, November 1, 1894.

ALL GLORY IS DUE ONLY TO GOD

The Scriptures say a lot about to whom glory should be given and why. Discuss what you find in the following verses.

Psalm 22:23 _____

Psalm 115:1 _____

Isaiah 42:8 _____

Revelation 14:7 _____

1 Chronicles 16:35 _____

Psalm 108:1-6, 12, 13 _____

Ephesians 1:3-8 _____

Philippians 1:11 _____

GLORIFYING GOD IS MAN'S SECURITY

God promises blessings and security to those who love and glorify Him. Psalm 86:9, 10; Revelation 15:4; Romans 8:28. Consider what would have happened to Adam and Eve (and all mankind) if their single purpose had been to glorify God, rather than seeking what they considered to be in their best interest. Now think about this in connection with how you live your life. In other words, when your one single purpose is to honor and glorify God (“Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness,” Matthew 6:33), how does that affect everything you do? Apply this to the different areas of your life (schooling, job, family, talents, time, influence). God promises to give each of His children every supernatural blessing for the honor of His name and for the advancement of His kingdom.

IN EARTH'S FINAL EVENTS

God promises to take care of His children during the “time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time,” after which His people “shall be delivered.” Daniel 12:1. Read and discuss some of His promises, as shown below.

Isaiah 33:16 _____

Psalm 91 _____

Jeremiah 30:5-7 _____

Deuteronomy 4:29-31 _____

Revelation 19:7-9 _____

NOW IS THE TIME

“Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.” Matthew 24:44.

Although we cannot expect to know down to the last detail how the final events in this world’s history will come about, we can be ready, as Jesus commanded. The Holy Spirit will reveal, in time, everything that needs to be known. However, this will happen only as we are ready now to give up the world’s way of thinking, seek Him with all our hearts, and put first the kingdom of God and His righteousness. As He did with Israel in Deuteronomy 30:20, He pleads with all mankind today to choose life by looking to Him—not to self, not to another human being, not even to our own experience. Fortified by His word, filled with His Holy Spirit, let us encourage each other to be humble and prayerful, ready to pass from this life into His heavenly kingdom, abiding in Him through every quiz, test, and trial.

The General Conference Youth Department urges you to make your decision to walk with Jesus and to renew that choice every day—to trust, honor, obey, and glorify the Creator of heaven and earth. He loves you and will carry you safely through the dangers ahead.

*“Let every thing that hath breath
praise the Lord.
Praise ye the Lord.”
Psalm 150:6.*

“A season of great trial is before us. It becomes us now to use all our capabilities and gifts in advancing the work of God. The powers the Lord has given us are to be used to build up, not to discourage and to tear down.... In all ages of the church God’s appointed messengers have exposed themselves to reproach and persecution for the truth’s sake. But wherever God’s people may be forced to go, even though, like the beloved disciple, they are banished to desert islands, Christ will know where they are, and will strengthen and bless them, filling them with peace and joy....

“He will purify His church even as He purified the temple at the beginning and close of His ministry on earth. All that He brings upon the church in test and trial comes that His people may gain deeper piety and more strength to carry the triumphs of the cross to all parts of the world. He has a work for all to do.” –Sons and Daughters of God, p. 260.