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A STUDY  
IN THE BOOK OF  
ESTHER

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# **A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF ESTHER**

## **THE RICH KING**

1. What is the first characteristic of the fourth king of Persia as given in Dan. 11:2?
2. By what name is he known in history? Note 1.

Note 1. The visions of the tenth and eleventh chapters of Daniel were given in the "third year Of Cyrus, king of Persia." Dan. 10:1. Therefore, when Gabriel said, "There shall stand up yet three kings Of Persia and the fourth shall be far richer than they all," he referred to those that followed Cyrus: namely, (1) Cambyses, (2) Smerdis, the Impostor, (3) Darius Hystaspes, (4) Xerxes the Great.

3. Give the Bible name of this king and the extent of his kingdom. Esther 1:1, 2. Note 2.

Note 2. That Ahasuerus is Xerxes there is sufficient proof. The two names are identical, the latter being but the Greek form of the Persian name. Second, the characters of the two men are alike. Both were impulsive and impassionate. When Xerxes invaded Greece, he scourged the sea for breaking his bridge, and put to death the engineers because their work did not stand the storm. In a similarly impulsive manner, Ahasuerus repudiated his queen. Vashti, because she would not violate the decorum of her sex. and ordered the massacre of the whole Jewish people to gratify the malice of Haman.

# LESSON 1

September 29-October 5

In the third year of the reign of Xerxes was held an assembly to arrange the Grecian war. In the third year of the reign of Ahasuerus was held a great feast and assembly in Shushan the palace (Esther 1:3). In the seventh year of his reign, Xerxes returned defeated from Greece, and consoled himself by the pleasures of the harem. In the seventh year of his reign, fair, young virgins were sought for Ahasuerus, and he replaced Vashti by marrying Esther. The tribute he "laid upon the land and upon the isles of the sea" (Esther 10:1) may well have been the result of the expenditure and ruin of the Grecian expedition.

4. What council did he call? For what object? How long did it continue? Verses 4, 5.
5. State some of the ways in which the king displayed his great wealth. Verses 6, 7. Note 3.

Note 3. The beds here referred to were doubtless the couches upon which according to oriental fashion, they reclined while feasting. The drinking cups were of gold, although thousands were given wine, every cup was different in design.

6. What consideration was shown in serving the wine? Verse 8.
7. How were the women entertained? Verse 9.
8. What unreasonable command was given by the king? Verses 10, 11.
9. How was the command received? Verse 12. Note 4.

# LESSON 1

**September 29-October 5**

Note 4. In oriental countries it was not customary for virtuous women to appear in public unveiled, hence, the command was unjust. By her refusal, Vashti revealed nobility of soul for she chose to forfeit her position, and perhaps her life, rather than sacrifice her modesty.

10. With whom did the king counsel? Verses 13-15.
  
11. Give Memucan's answer. Verses 16-20.
  
12. What was the result? Verses 21, 22.
  
13. With what duty were they evidently acquainted? Gen. 3:16; Eph. 5:22.
  
14. With what duty were they unfamiliar? Eph. 5:25.
  
15. Give a sure remedy for all dissension between husband and wife. Eph. 5:33.

## EFFECT OF HOME TRAINING

1. What measures were taken to secure a queen in Vashti's place? Esther 2:1-4.
2. Give Mordecai's place of residence and genealogy. Verse 5. How long had his people been in captivity? 2 Kings 24:14, 15. Note 1.

Note 1. From Mordecai's living in a palace, we might infer that he occupied some place of trust at this time. The marginal date for the book of Esther is incorrect. It was formerly thought that Ahasuerus of this book was Darius I and the marginal date was made to correspond. The reign of Xerxes was between 486 and 465 B. c. The third year of his reign would therefore begin in 483 B. c. Mordecai was the great grandson of Kish, the Benjaminite who had been carried away into captivity by Nebuchadnezzar.

3. Who was Esther? Esther 2:7.
4. How was she favored more than the other maidens? Verses 8, 9.
5. In what way did Esther show regard for Mordecai's counsel? Verse 10.
6. In what way did Mordecai show his character as a foster-father? Verse 11. Note 2.

## LESSON 2

October 6-October 12

Note 2. Mordecai realized his obligation as a father to care for Esther. He did not throw off responsibility when Esther was taken to the palace, but for one whole year every day he went to the palace to inquire "how Esther did, and what should become of her."

7. How was Esther's character shown when her time came to go before the king? Verse 15. Note 3.

Note 3. In this, Esther revealed her home training; her wants were simple: she was content with what was given her. Oh, that all maidens could only realize that there is no ornament to compare with youthful beauty, when combined with grace of character! Esther's beauty was consecrated. Beauty of the face and person is a valuable ornament, and aids in one's usefulness when it is consecrated to God. Consecrated beauty never makes the possessor vain.

8. What honor was conferred upon Esther? Verses 17, 18.
9. What position did Mordecai hold? Verse 19. Note 4.

Note 4. The "gate" was an official seat, a court where decisions were rendered. as shown by the following quotations: "Execute the judgment of truth and peace in your gates." Zech. 8:16. "They hate him that rebuketh in the gate. They take a bribe, and they turn aside the poor in the gate from their right. [But God said] Hate the evil, and love the good, and establish judgment in the gate: it may be that the Lord God of hosts will be gracious unto the remnant of Joseph." Amos 5:10-15. See Ruth 4:1-11; Job 31:21; Prov. 1:21; 22:22, etc.

10. Was Esther subject to her foster-father after she became queen? Verse 20. Note 5.

Note 5. Mordecai taught Esther to obey when she was a child, and being



## LESSON 2

**October 6-October 12**

"trained," when old she continued to obey. A father that has wisdom to properly train his child will ever be her best counselor.

11. Of what was this the fulfilment? Prov. 22:6.
  
12. Mordecai's experience was a fulfilment of what text? Prov. 29:17.
  
13. How was Mordecai able to save the life of the king? Esther 2:21-23.
  
14. Did Esther take the honor to herself? Verse 22.

## THE HISTORY OF HAMAN'S FAMILY

1. To what family did Haman belong? Esther 3:1.
2. Who was Agag? 1 Sam. 15:8.
3. What relation was Amalek to Esau? Gen. 36:12.
4. How was the character of the Amalekites shown by their attack upon Israel? Deut. 25:17, 18.
5. How does this compare with Christ's treatment of the fainting, tired ones? Isa. 40:11; Matt. 9:36 (margin).
6. Is God's wrath kindled against all who afflict the weak and feeble? Ex. 22:22-24.
7. Against whom did the Amalekites raise their hand when they oppressed the weak? Ex. 17:16 (margin).
8. What punishment did the Lord pronounce against Amalek? Ex. 17:14-16.

## LESSON 3

October 12-October 19

9. When were they to receive the punishment? Deut. 25:19.
  
10. Whom did the Lord commission to destroy the Amalekites? 1 Sam. 15:1-5. Note 1.

Note 1. The Lord was lone-suffering, and gave the Amalekites over four hundred years to reform before He commanded Saul to destroy them; but they clung to the same nature. They were ever ready to raise their hand against the poor and weak. Haman inherited all the evil tendencies of his race and developed the most diabolical scheme of which we have any record. If God Himself had not interfered in behalf of His people, every child of God would have been destroyed in one fatal day. Esther 3:13.

11. Before attacking the Amalekites, what word was sent to the Kenites? How did their conduct compare that of the Amalekites? 1 Sam. 15:6.
  
12. In destroying only the vile and refuse, did Saul obey the Lord? 1 Sam. 15:9-11.
  
13. How strong were the Amalekites twenty-three years later? 1 Sam. 30:1.
  
14. Would Haman, the Agagite, ever have lived if Saul had carried out the command of God?

## CHRISTIAN INTEGRITY

1. What position did Haman fill? Esther 3:1.
2. What was required of all the King's servants? Verse 2.
3. What course did Mordecai pursue? Verse 2. Note 1.

Note 1. In all probability, Mordecai showed the usual respect to the king. Joseph, Daniel, and Nehemiah, all held high positions in earthly governments, and showed proper respect to their sovereigns; but Mordecai could not bow to Haman without dishonoring God; for God had declared "war with Amalek from generation to generation." Ex. 17:16. He also told His people not to "forget it." Deut. 25:19. The evil nature of Haman \*Would naturally lead him to require more than other men. He required "reverence." Mordecai "refused to show him reverence, which belongs only to God."

4. What question was asked Mordecai? Verse 3.
5. Of whom was Mordecai a representative? Note 2.

Note 2. "The Protestant world today see, in the little company keeping the Sabbath, a Mordecai in the gate."

6. What reason did Mordecai give for not bowing to Haman? Esther 3:4. Note 3.

## LESSON 4

October 20-October 26

Note 3. This is the first record of Mordecai revealing his nationality. In view of the texts given in Note 1, the fact that Mordecai was a Jew was sufficient reason for not bowing to Haman.

7. How did Mordecai's conduct affect Haman? Verse 5.
8. How will the apostate Protestant world feel toward those who honor God by keeping His Sabbath? Rev. 13:14, 15. Note 4.

Note 4. "Satan will excite indignation against the humble minority who conscientiously refuse to accept popular customs and traditions."

9. What did Haman determine to do? Esther 3:6.
10. Who was the author of the scheme? John 8:44. Note 5.

Note 5. "Satan instigated the scheme in order to rid the earth of those who preserve the knowledge of the true God."

11. Is he still engaged in the same work? 1 Peter 5:8. Note 6.

Note 6. "The same masterful mind that plotted against the faithful in ages past, is still seeking to rid the earth of those who fear God and keep His law."

12. How was the time of their destruction determined? Esther 3:7. Note 7.

Note 7. According to custom, lots were cast to determine the time for the

destruction of the Jews. The lots were cast in the first month of the year to select, according to their superstitious ideas, a propitious and fortunate day for the massacre of the Jews. While Haman no doubt would have been glad to have their destruction take place at an earlier date, he thought himself bound to submit to the "Pur" or lot. (Pur is a Hebrew word that means lot) Perhaps this was a providence of God in delaying the execution of the Jews, and give a chance for the nature of the plot to be learned and a counter-edict issued.

13. Is there a similar work being carried on today? Note 8.

Note 8. "Church and state are now making preparations for the future conflict. Protestants are working in disguise to bring Sunday to the front, as did the Romanists. Throughout the land, the papacy is piling up her lofty and massive structures in the secret recesses of which her former persecutions are to be repeated." "While men are sleeping, Satan is actively arranging matters so that the Lord's people may not have mercy or justice. The Sunday movement is now making its way in darkness. The leaders are concealing the true issue, and many who unite in the movement, do not themselves see whither the current is tending."

14. How many and what are the reasons Haman presented to induce the king to consent to the cruel deed? Esther 3:8.

15. Will men in high position unite with the opposers of God's law in the conflict before us? Ps. 2:2, 3. Note 9.

Note 9. "Men of position and reputation will join with the lawless and the vile to take counsel against the people of God." To secure popularity and patronage, legislators will yield to the demand for a Sunday law."

All the quotations in the above notes were taken from "Testimonies for the Church," Vol. 5, pages 449, 452.

## HAMAN'S PLOT

1. Did Haman regard the Jews as law-abiding citizens? Esther 3:8.
2. How will those who honor the Bible Sabbath be regarded? Rev. 12:17. Note 1.

Note 1. "Those who honor the Bible Sabbath will be denounced as enemies of law and order, as breaking down the moral restraints of society, causing anarchy and corruption, and calling down the judgments of God upon the earth." – Great Controversy, page 592.

3. How widely were the Jews scattered in Haman's day? Esther 3:8.
4. How widely will commandment-keepers be scattered? Rev. 14:6, 9-12.
5. What special offer caused the king to give his consent to Haman's decree? Esther 3:9. Note 2.

Note 2. The value of the Hebraic, Assyrian, and Babylonian talent, according to the Century and Standard dictionaries, was from \$1,550 to \$2,000. Estimating on this basis the sum of "ten thousand talents of silver" offered by Haman would be from \$15,500,000 to \$20,000,000. The above authorities state, however, that "reliable authorities differ greatly as to all talent values."

6. Will men of wealth give of their means to accomplish the

## LESSON 5

October 27-November 2

destruction of God's people in the near future? Note 3.

Note 3. "Wealth, genius, education, will combine to cover them (Sabbath-keepers) with con tempt." – Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 5, page 450.

7. Of what was Haman a type? Rom. 15:4; 1 Cor. 10:11. See lesson 4, (Note 2.)
8. What union was formed between the king and Haman? Esther 3:10, 11.
9. What union in our day will soon be formed? Note 4.

Note 4. "The dignitaries of church and state will unite to bribe, persuade or compel all classes to honor the Sunday." – Great Controversy, Chap. 36, last Paragraph.

10. Who formulated the decree in the days of Mordecai? Esther 3:12.
11. Will there be a similar decree used in the last days? Note 5.

Note 5. "The decree which is to go forth against the people of God will be very similar to that issued by Ahasuerus against the Jews in the time of Esther." – Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 5, page 540.

12. What gave force to the decree in Mordecai's time? Esther 3:12 (last clause).



## LESSON 5

October 27-November 2

13. Will the United States government follow the example of Ahasuerus, and unite with the church in issuing a decree against God's people? Rev. 13:14, 15. Note 6.

Note 6. "By the decree enforcing the institution of the papacy, in violation of the law of God, our nation will disconnect herself fully from righteousness... this apostasy [will] be a sign to us, that the limit of God's forbearance is reached, that the measure of our nation's iniquity is full, and that the angel of mercy is about to take her flight, never to return." – Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 5, page 451.

14. How extensive was the Medo-Persian empire? Dan. 8:4, 20.
15. How much of the earth was included in the decree? Esther 3:12.

## ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DECREE

1. Give the substance of Ahasuerus' decree. Esther 3:13.
2. How much time was given to prepare for the execution of the decree? Verses 12, 13.
3. Was the attack to be made in all parts of the nation on the same day? Verse 13.
4. Give the points of similarity between the decree to be issued against God's people, and the decree of Ahasuerus. Note 1.

Note 1. "When the protection of human laws shall be withdrawn from those who honor the law of God, there will be, in different lands, a simultaneous movement for their destruction. As the time appointed in the decree draws near, the people will conspire to root out the hated sect. It will be determined in one night to strike a decisive blow, which shall entirely silence the voice of dissent and reproof."— Great Controversy, Chap. 40, first paragraph.

5. How urgent were they in the days of Esther? Esther 3:14, 15.
6. How was the decree received by the people? Verse 15 (last clause).
7. What effect did the decree have upon Mordecai? Esther 4:1, 2.

## LESSON 6

November 3-November 9

8. As the messengers went from province to province, how were the Jews affected? Verse 3.
9. How did Esther hear of Mordecai's grief, and what did she do? Verses 4-6.
10. Give the substance of the message Mordecai sent to Esther. Verses 7, 8.
11. What excuse did Esther make? Verses 10, 11.
12. Give Mordecai's reply. Verses 13, 14.
13. Who at a former time was placed next to the throne that he might deliver God's people in the time of a crisis? Gen. 45:4-8.
14. What expression shows that Mordecai had the victory before he sent this message to Esther? Esther 4:14.
15. Give another instance where the victory was gained before the crisis was reached. John 11:41.
16. Is it our privilege to gain the victory before we come into the conflict? 1 John 5:4.

## ESTHER'S FIRST BANQUET

1. Give Esther's reply to Mordecai. Esther 4:15, 16.
2. How long was the fast? Who united with her in it? Verses 16, 17.
3. Give other instances where fasting and prayer have brought deliverance from heaven. Jonah 3:5-10; Ezra 8:21-23.
4. What was the first evidence seen that God was answering their prayers? Esther 5:1, 2.
5. Give the second evidence of answered prayer. Verse 3.
6. What promise is given those who seek God? Prov. 2:10, 11.
7. How was Esther's discretion shown? Esther 5:4.
8. How urgent was the king's instruction to Haman? Verse 5.
9. What request did the king make Esther? Verse 6.

# LESSON 7

# November 10-November 16

10. Give Esther's reply. Verses 7, 8. Note 1.

Note 1. The Jews had been praying for Esther, and in answer to their prayers, Esther was led to defer her request until the Lord had prepared the way for her request to be granted.

11. How did the second invitation to the queen's banquet affect Haman? Verse 9.

12. How many points did Haman mention in narrating his greatness? Verses 10-12.

13. What did he consider the greatest of them all? Verse 12. Note 2.

Note 2. An invitation to Esther's banquet meant much. In Oriental countries it is very unusual for ladies to dine with any man, except those of their own family. Haman had reason to be proud of receiving an invitation to the queen's banquet.

14. What overshadowed all these blessings? Verse 13.

15. Give the advice of Zeresh and his friends. Verse 14 (first clause).

16. What did Haman do? Verse 14 (last clause).

## GOD'S PROVIDENCE

1. Do angels ever visit rulers to bring deliverance to God's people? Dan. 10:12, 13; Prov. 21:1.
2. How was Ahasuerus affected the night after Esther's first banquet? Esther 6:1.
3. What command was given? Verse 1.
4. What was found in the Chronicles? Verse 2. Was it found by accident?
5. How long since Mordecai had saved the life of the king? Esther 2:21-23. Compare marginal dates.
6. On hearing the Chronicles read, what question was asked by the king? Esther 6:3.
7. What reply was given? Verse 3.
8. Who entered the court at this time, and for what purpose? Verse 4. Note 1.

## LESSON 8

November 17-November 23

Note 1. Haman was like the wicked in the last days. "In some places, before the time for the decree to be executed, the wicked rushed upon the saints to slay them; but angels, in the form of men of war, fought for them." — Early Writings, page 143.

9. With what question was Haman greeted when he entered the king's presence? Verses 5, 6.
  
10. What similarity is seen between the workings of Haman and the "mystery of iniquity"? Verse 6 (last clause); 2 Thess. 2:4.
  
11. With whom did this evil principle originate? Isa. 14:12-14.
  
12. What was there in Haman's answer that showed that he, like Satan, coveted the position of the one ruling over him? Esther 6:7-9.
  
13. What answer was given by the king? Verse 10. What followed? Verse 11.
  
14. How could this event be interpreted by the two men? Note 2.

Note 2. Haman, filled with shame and hatred, could but see in it the beginning of his downfall. Mordecai, meekly and humbly trusting God, must have taken it as an evidence that God had answered prayer for the deliverance of the Jews.

15. How were the two men affected by the event? Esther 6:12. Note 3.

## LESSON 8

## November 17-November 23

Note 3. Mordecai was not filled with pride; he humbly returned to his post of duty at the king's gate; but unfitted for business, returned to his home.

16. What is there in Zeresh's remarks that shows that she was acquainted with the prophecy, in regard to the destruction of Haman's family by the Jews? Esther 6:13.



## THE CRISIS

1. In Haman's shame what had he forgotten? Who came for him? Esther 6:14.
2. Who accompanied him to the banquet? Esther 7:1.
3. What request did the king again make Esther? Verse 2.
4. Give Esther's reply. Verses 3, 4.
5. In what way did she show that the king's consent had been purchased by the large sum of money offered? Verse 4.
6. What reply did the king make? Verse 5.
7. What accusation did Esther present? Verse 6.
8. Was it easier to accuse Haman at the second banquet, than it would have been at the first? Why?
9. Tell in brief how the Lord had worked for His people during the time between the two banquets? Esther 6:1-11.

## LESSON 9

## November 24-November 30

10. Tell how the devil had laid plans to destroy Mordecai during the same time. Esther 5:13, 14; 6:4.
  
11. How did the accusation affect the king? Esther 7:7.
  
12. What course did Haman pursue? Verses 7, 8. Note 1.

Note 1. Anciently, in oriental countries, the people reclined upon couches while dining.

13. Upon hearing Haman condemned by the king, what did the servants do? Verse 8. Note 2.

Note 2. Faces of criminals are covered, and the servants in covering Haman's face, pronounced his doom. He had covered his own head in shame in the morning. Esther 6:12.

14. What did the chamberlain suggest? What was the king's command? Verse 9. Note 3.

Note 3. It is possible that Harbonah was the same chamberlain that had been sent to Haman's house to call him to the banquet, and the great gallows, 75 feet high must have attracted his attention, and caused him to inquire why it had been built. Hence his suggestion to hang Haman thereon.

15. What was done to Haman? Verse 10.

## LESSON 9

**November 24-November 30**

16. Of what principle of divine retribution was this an illustration?  
Ps. 7:16; Esther 9:25.

## CAPTIVITY TURNED

1. To whom was the house of Haman given? Esther 8:1.
2. What position was given Mordecai? Verses 1, 2. Why?
3. Although Mordecai was prime minister, was the decree to kill all the Jews repealed? Verse 3.
4. What course did Esther pursue? Verse 3.
5. How was she received? Verse 4.
6. What request did she make? Verses 5, 6.
7. What provision was made to counteract the decree sent out by Haman? Verse 7, 8.
8. How long since Haman's decree had been sent out? Compare Esther 3:12; 8:9.
9. How long before the fatal day when the Jews were to be destroyed? Compare Esther 3:13; 8:9.

# LESSON 10

# December 1-December 7

10. Who formulated this second decree? How widely was it published? Esther 8:9.
  
11. In whose name was it sent out? Verse 10.
  
12. Give the substance of the decree. Verses 11, 12.
  
13. To whom was the first decree especially sent? Esther 3:14.
  
14. Who was commanded to be especially prepared by the second decree? Esther 8:13.
  
15. How was Mordecai clad? Verse 15.
  
16. How long since he sat in sackcloth?
  
17. How does the state of feeling among the Jews compare with that described in Esther 3:15; 4:3.

## GOD WILL DELIVER

1. How did the turning of their captivity affect the Jews? Esther 8:16, 17.
2. What was the result? Verse 17.
3. Describe the attitude of the enemies of the Jews as the fatal day approached. Esther 9:1.
4. What course did the Jews pursue? Verse 2.
5. Describe Mordecai as a prime minister. Esther 9:4; 10:1-3.
6. What was the result of the days of slaughter? Did the Jews take the prey? Esther 9:5-16 (especially verses 13-16).
7. How was the deliverance of the Jews commemorated? Esther 9:19-32 (especially verses 26-28).
8. What decree against God's people will be issued in the last days? Rev. 13:15-17.

9. As the time for the execution of this decree draws near, what will the wicked do? Note 1.

Note 1. "In every quarter, companies of armed men, urged on by hosts of evil angels, are preparing for the work of death." – Great Controversy, Chap. 40, paragraph 2.

10. How will the righteous meet the crisis? Ps. 56:11. Note 2.

Note 2. "I saw the saints leaving the cities and villages, and associating together in companies, and living in the most solitary places. I saw a writing, copies of which were scattered in different parts of the land, giving orders that unless the saints should yield their peculiar faith, give up the Sabbath, and observe the first day of the week, the people were at liberty, after a certain day, to put them to death." – Early Writings, page 143.

11. Who will protect the righteous? Ps. 34:7. Note 3.

Note 3. "As the saints left the cities and villages, they were pursued by the wicked, who sought to slay them. But the swords that were raised to kill God's people broke and fell as powerless as a straw. Angels of God shielded the saints." – Early Writings, page 145.

12. Will there be a higher decree that will turn the captivity of God's people before the time for the execution of the decree arrives? Ps. 89:27. Note 4.

Note 4. "It is at midnight that God manifests His power for the deliverance of His people. The voice of God is heard from heaven declaring the day and hour of Jesus' coming and delivering the everlasting covenant to His people." Isa. 30:27-30; Great Controversy, pages 636, 640.

13. How will this affect the righteous? Note 5.

Note 5. "Their faces, so lately pale, anxious, and haggard, are now aglow with wonder, faith, and love." – Great Controversy, page 639.

14. How will the wicked be affected? Isa. 60:14; Isa. 61:9.

15. Must a type necessarily represent every detail? Heb. 10:1.

16. Can we expect to find every particular of Ahasuerus' decree repeated in the decree to be issued against God's people? Note 6.

Note 6. When God's voice declares the hour of Jesus' coming, and turns the captivity of His people, it will be too late for any to repent, but the wicked will acknowledge that God is just, and His people righteous. When the decree of Mordecai turned the captivity of the Jews, there was an opportunity for repentance, and many became Jews. But before God's final deliverance of His people, the destiny of every soul will have been fixed. Rev. 22:11.



## A GLIMPSE INTO THE NEAR FUTURE

1. Name two errors that Satan is using to bring the people under his power. Gen. 3:4; Rev. 13:14. Note 1.

Note 1. "Through two great errors—the immortality of the soul, and Sunday sacredness—Satan will bring the people under his deceptions. While the former lays the foundation of Spiritualism, the latter creates a bond of sympathy with Rome."— Great Controversy, page 588.

2. What is accomplished by the first? What by the second?

3. What threefold union will be formed? Rev. 16:13, 14. Note 2.

Note 2. "The Protestants of the United States will be foremost in stretching their hands across the gulf to grasp the hand of Spiritualism; they will reach over the abyss to clasp hands with the Roman power, and under the influence of this threefold union. this country will follow in the steps of Rome, in trampling on the right of conscience."— Great Controversy, page 588.

4. What provision is made for the safety of God's people? Isa. 33:16. Note 3.

Note 3. "The time is not far distant, when, like the early disciples, we shall be forced to seek a refuge in desolate and solitary places."— Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 5, page 464.

5. How may we know when to leave the cities? Note 4.

Note 4. "As the decree issued by the various rulers of Christendom against commandment keepers shall withdraw the protection of government, and abandon them to those who desire their destruction, the people of God will flee from the cities and villages and associate together in companies, dwelling in the most desolate and solitary places." – Great Controversy, pages 625, 626. Also read Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 5, pages 464, 465.

6. Have we an example of this in the past? Luke 21:20, 21.
  
7. What should be our attitude? Luke 12:35, 36.
  
8. What will those who are ready for the Lord have done, prior to His coming? Luke 12:33. Note 5.

Note 5. "The members of the church should individually hold themselves and all their possessions upon the altar of God. Now, as never before, the Saviour's admonition is applicable: 'Sell that we have. and give alms: provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not.'... Those who are fastening their means in large houses, in lands, in worldly enterprises, are saying by their actions, 'God can not have it; I want it for myself.' They have bound up their one talent in a napkin and hid it in the earth. There is cause for such to be alarmed." – Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 5, page 465.

9. What evil does the Lord behold? Eccl. 5:13, 14.
  
10. What is one object of Satan? What warning is given? 1 Tim. 6:9-11. Note 6.

Note 6. "Satan will, if possible, prevent them (the people of God) from

obtaining a preparation to stand in that day. He will so arrange affairs as to hedge up their way entangle them with earthly treasure, cause them to carry a heavy, wearisome burden, that their hearts may be overcharged with the cares of this life and the day of trial may come upon them as a thief." – Great Controversy, page 625.

11. Notwithstanding the severe persecution before the people of God, need they be discouraged? Ps. 91:1-11; Rev. 3:10.
  
12. What will befall the wicked? Isa. 8:21, 22; Ps. 11:6; Jer. 25:29-33.
  
13. Will the reversal of the positions of Haman and Mordecai be repeated in the experience of the righteous and the wicked in the last days?
  
14. Was Haman exposed to the view of all, as he hung on the gallows? Esther 5:14; 7:10. What will be the fate of the devil and his followers? Eze. 28:17, 18.
  
15. How was Mordecai honored? Esther 10:2, 3. Will the faithful ones out of the last generation be given a place near the king? Rev. 14:4; 7:15.

**NEED OF PREPARATION**

1. If the Jews had obeyed God, would they have been in Media and Persia in Haman's day? Note 1; see also Ezra 1:1-11.

Note 1. Cyrus had long before made full provision for every Jew to return to Jerusalem. Ezra 1:1-11. Only 50,000 returned at this time. They had wealth and ease in Babylon, and they chose to remain there rather than face difficulties in rebuilding the work of the Lord.

2. Is it possible for God's people by their faithfulness to hasten the coming of their King? 2 Peter 3:12 (margin). Note 2.

Note 2. "The love of Christ does not seem to constrain those who profess His name: for a death-like slumber is upon the human agents. and the work is hindered by failure of the human to co-operate with the divine. Consider how your lack of faith, of spirituality. of divine power, is hindering the coming of the kingdom of God." – E. G. White, in Bible Students' Library No. 146.

3. What action on the part of the people in the days of Esther, brought deliverance? Esther 4:16, 17.
4. How will God's people be engaged when He turns their captivity in the final struggle? Jer. 30:6, 7; Zeph. 2:1-3. Note 3.

Note 3. "Day and night they cry unto God for deliverance... Like Jacob, all are wrestling with God. Their countenances express their internal struggle. Paleness sits upon every face, yet they cease not their earnest intercession." – Great Controversy, page 620.

## LESSON 13

**December 22-December 28**

5. When did God turn the captivity of ancient Israel in Egypt? Ex. 12:29-36.
6. When will God turn the captivity of His people? Note 4.

Note 4. "It is at midnight that God manifests His power for the deliverance of His people." — Great Controversy, page 636.

7. If Mordecai had not been familiar with what God had written about the family of Haman, would he have been prepared for the crisis when it came?
8. Who only will be shielded in the coming conflict? Ps. 94:1; Rev. 3:10.
9. What is said of the purity of God's Word? Prov. 30:5, 6; Rev. 22:18, 19. Should we study it as a whole?
10. What is the only light for God's people in this world? Prov. 4:18; Ps. 119:105; 2 Peter 1:19.
11. Is there any miraculous power that can take its place? Luke 16:31.
12. What did the Saviour think would best fit the disciples for the trials before them, an understanding of the Scriptures, or a

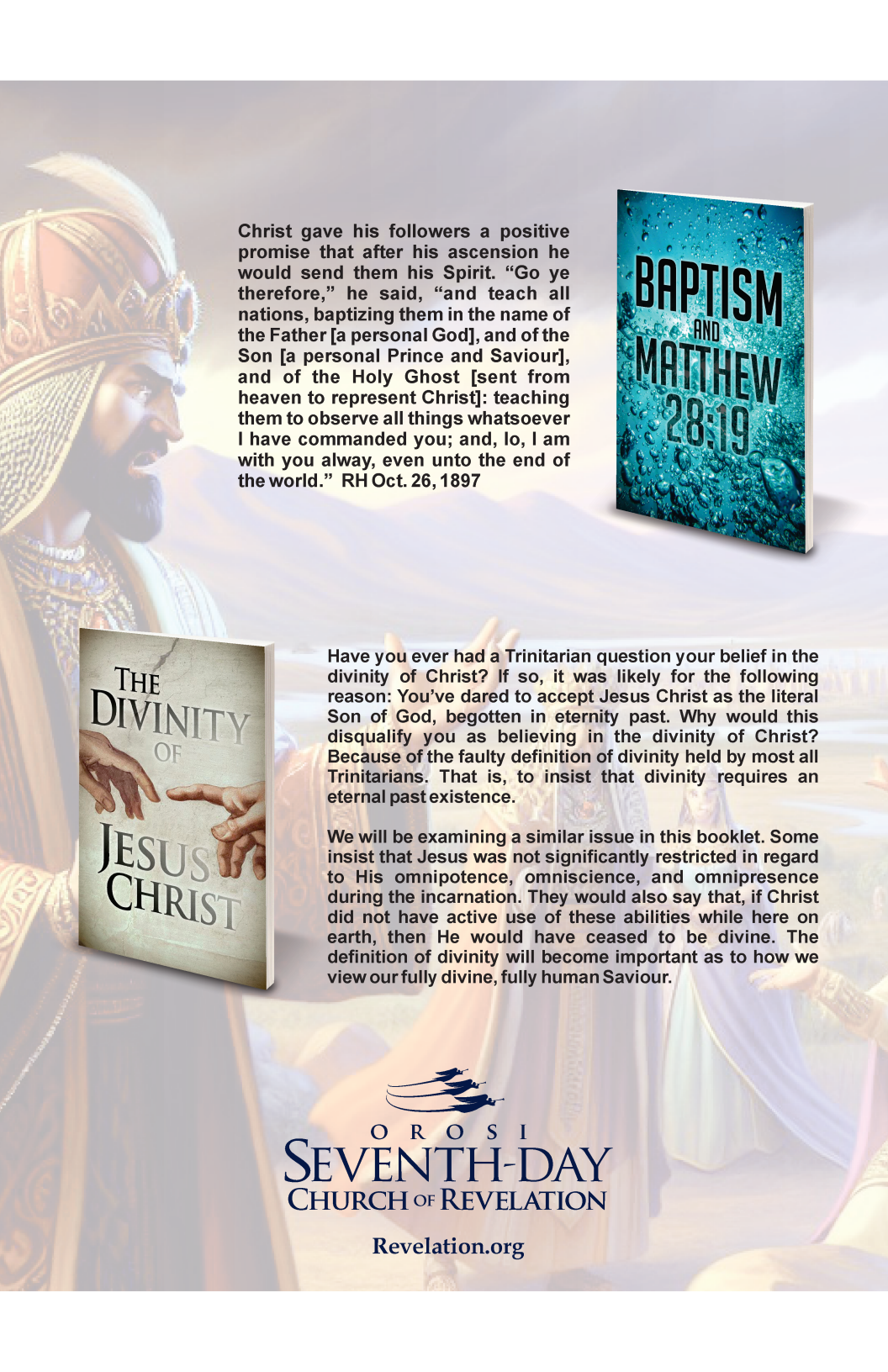
knowledge of His bodily presence? Luke 24:13-31. Note 5.

Note 5. "Only those who have been diligent students of the Scriptures, and have realized the love of the truth, will be shielded from the powerful delusion that takes the world captive." – Great Controversy, page 625.

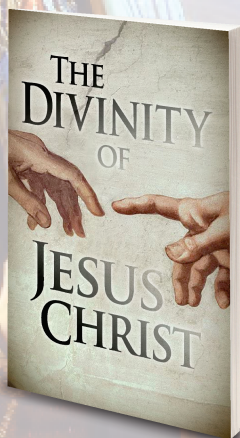
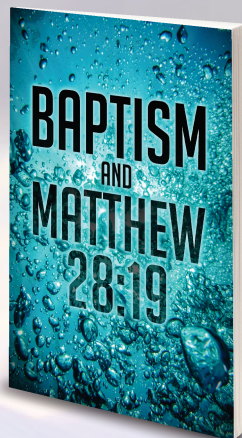
13. What did the Saviour do for His disciples when He was on the earth? Luke 24:27, 45.
  
14. What did this knowledge of the Scriptures enable them to experience when He was again taken from their sight? Luke 24:52 (last clause). Note 6.

Note 6. One word from the Saviour would have sent them bounding on their way, rejoicing, but they needed an understanding of the Scriptures in order to meet the trials before them, or else as soon as the Saviour was out of their sight they would have been in doubt and gloom again.





Christ gave his followers a positive promise that after his ascension he would send them his Spirit. “Go ye therefore,” he said, “and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father [a personal God], and of the Son [a personal Prince and Saviour], and of the Holy Ghost [sent from heaven to represent Christ]: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.” RH Oct. 26, 1897



Have you ever had a Trinitarian question your belief in the divinity of Christ? If so, it was likely for the following reason: You've dared to accept Jesus Christ as the literal Son of God, begotten in eternity past. Why would this disqualify you as believing in the divinity of Christ? Because of the faulty definition of divinity held by most all Trinitarians. That is, to insist that divinity requires an eternal past existence.

We will be examining a similar issue in this booklet. Some insist that Jesus was not significantly restricted in regard to His omnipotence, omniscience, and omnipresence during the incarnation. They would also say that, if Christ did not have active use of these abilities while here on earth, then He would have ceased to be divine. The definition of divinity will become important as to how we view our fully divine, fully human Saviour.



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