The Lord Reigns

Lesson 5, 1st Quarter January 25-29, 2024.

Sabbath Afternoon, January 25

Memory Text:

"The LORD reigneth, he is clothed with majesty; the LORD is clothed with strength, wherewith he hath girded himself: the world also is stablished, that it cannot be moved." KJV — Psalm 93:1

"It is by the power of God that we live. With one word He might take from us the breath He has given life in our bodies. Yet thousands upon thousands, though kept alive by the tenderness of our God, use their powers of mind and body against their Creator, and they do this as if it were something to be proud of. Against such ingratitude, if they place themselves under His instruction, to learn how to defeat the purpose of Satan, and to carry their rebellion against Him to the highest point, 1BLtBs, MS 131, 1903, par. 10

"As I read the book of Revelation, I wonder that many more do not study the wonderful instruction given to John for the rise of Philippic Nations the representation of Christ in the first chapter. The apostle says: 1BLtBs, MS 131, 1903, par. 12

"I was in the spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet, saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea." 1BLtBs, MS 131, 1903, par. 12

"The Lord reigneth; he is clothed with majesty; the Lord is clothed with strength, wherewith He hath girded Himself; the world also is established, that it cannot be moved. Thy throne is established from old. Thou art from everlasting. The floods have lifted up, O Lord, the floods have lifted up their voice; the floods lift up their waves. The Lord on high is mightier than the noise of many waters, yea, than the mighty waves of the sea. Thy testimonies are very sure: holiness becometh Thine house, O Lord, forever." (Psalm 93:1-5) 1BLtBs, MS 131, 1903, par. 21

Sunday, January 14

The Lord has made us.

Read Psalm 8 and Psalm 100. How are God and people portrayed in these psalms? What do these passages reveal about God's character?

"God, who created everything lovely and beautiful that the eye rests upon, is a lover of the beautiful. He shows you how to adorn your homes. Let taste, refined taste, and quiet and quiet spirit is in his sight of great price. Shall we not then, brethren and sisters, in our Christmas and other valuable than costly dress or pearls or gold? The inward adorning, the grace of meekness, of a quiet spirit adorning with the heavenly angels, will not lesser true dignity of character or make us less lovely here in this world. 3T 374.4

"Religion, pure and undefiled, ennobles its possessor. You will ever find with the true Christian a cheerfulness, a happy, happy confidence in God, a sweetness of disposition, which will be a blessing to the soul. By the Christian, God's love and benevolence can be manifested in the family, in the church, and in the world, are a theme for contemplation. In studying the natural creation, contemplating the Lord's goodness, we shall find ever to adore the Creator. We shall find a lovely, if the world of God are speaking to our senses, magnifying His power, exalting His wisdom, and proclaiming His love. Nature is a theme which interest the child of God and most his taste to inspire the heart with appreciation of God's love above the work of human skill." 3T 377.1

"The exceeding rewards for right-doing, the enjoyment of heaven, the society of the angels, the communion with God, love of God and His Son, the elevation and extension of all our powers intellectual and moral, are the rewards of the mighty incentives and encouragements to urge us to give the heart's loving service to our Creator and Redeemer" 5C 21.3

"All the varied capabilities that men possess—of mind and soul and body—are given them by God, to be so employed as to reach the highest possible degree of usefulness. But the control cannot be a selfish and exclusive culture; for the character of God, whose likeness we are to receive, is benevolence and love. Every faculty, every attribute, with which the Creator has endowed us is to be employed for His glory and for the uplifting of our fellow men. And in this employment is found its purest, noblest, and happiest exercise." PP 595.3

Monday, January 15

The Lord Reigns

Read Psalm 97. What characteristics the Lord's reign (Psalm 97:2, 10). What is the domain of His reign? (Psalm 97:1, 9)

"Before Him who ruleth in the heavens the mysteries of the past and future are alike outspread, and God sees beyond the years of darkness and trial into the bright sunlight, the outworking of His purpose of love and mercy. Although clouds and darkness surround most men, yet righteousness and judgment are the foundation of His throne. Every dark and mysterious feature of His purpose is to be wrought out even than the salvation of man and the vindication of His law. Each report of the revelation of the character of God in Christ, the beneficiaries of the plan of redemption will be manifested before the universe, the charge of Satan will be refuted, the nature and result of sin made plain, and the perpetuity of the law fully demonstrated."32 TMK 366.4

"And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea: in summer and in winter shall it be. And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one." (Zechariah 14:8, 9)

The Lord reigns first over Jerusalem, and finally after the saints are gathered to their new four corners of the earth He reigns over the whole earth.

Tuesday, January 16

God is the Judge

Read Psalm 75. Why is the boasting of the wicked in vain?

"At what instant I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to build and to pluck up, to destroy it; if that nation, against whom I have pronounced, turn from their evil, I will repent of the evil that I thought to do unto them. And at what instant I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to build and to plant it; if it do evil in my sight, that it obey not my voice, then I will repent of the good wherewith I said I would benefit them." KJV — Jeremiah 18:7-10

"Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God forever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:" KJV — Daniel 2:20, 21

"The...most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men." KJV — Daniel 4:17

Some even to this day do not realize that God rules, that men are not independent of Him although they are permitted to choose whether or not to serve Him. It was not necessary for the Chaldean king to live with the beasts of the field, but as he could not learn his lesson by words, in the easy way, he was removed from his palace and put into a corral, there to learn by experience. In the hard school of seven years, with the beasts of burden, yet not to speak, from God's school of hard knocks, the king walked back into his palace.

Wednesday, January 17

Ever mindful of His covenant

The theme of God's judgment prompts a significant question: How can God's people live and walk with God and assurance of salvation at the time of judgment? Read Psalm 105:1-5, 8; Daniel 7:22.

"God had sent judgments upon Israel for yielding to the enticements of the Midianites; but the tempters were not to escape the wrath of God. Many of the Israelites had had attacked Israel at Baphoth, falling upon those who were faint and weary behind the host, were not punished till long after; but the Midianites who seduced them into sin were speedily made to feel the wrath of God. Among the more dangerous enemies, "Avenge the children of Israel of the Midianites" (Numbers 31:2), was the command of God to Moses; "afterward shalt thou be gathered unto thy people." The Israelites were immediately obeyed. One thousand men were chosen from each of the tribes and sent out under the command of Phinehas. "And they warred against the Midianites, as the Lord commanded Moses; and they slew all the males of Midian, beside the rest of them that were slain.... Few kings of Midian: Balaam also they slew with the sword; and Balaam's sons." Verses 7, 8. The women also, who had been made the means of seducing the people, were put to death at the command of Moses, as the most guilty and most dangerous of the foe." Patriarchs and Prophets, 479.

"Such was the end of them that devised mischief against God's people. But God's people had brought upon them a work down in the pit that they made: in the net which they hid is their own foot taken." Psalm 9:15. The evil that God had cast off His people, neither will He forsake His inheritance. Those who shall return unto God acknowledge and confess "gather themselves together against the soul of the righteous," but God will "shall bring upon them their own iniquity, and shall cut them off in their own wickedness." Psalm 94:14, 15, 23. PP 456.3

"When Balaam was called to curse the Hebrews he could not, by all his enchantments, bring evil upon them; for the Lord had not "beheld iniquity in Jacob," neither had he "seen perverseness in Israel." Numbers 23:21, 23. But when through yielding to temptation they transgressed God's law, their defence departed from them. When the people of God are faithful to His commandments, "there is no enchantment against Jacob, neither is there any divination against Israel." Hence all the power and wily arts of Satan are exerted to seduce them into sin. If those who profess to be the depositaries of God's law become transgressors of its precepts, they separate themselves from God, and they will be unable to stand before their enemies." PP 457.1

Thursday, January 18

Your testimonies are very sure

Read Psalm 19:7; Psalm 93:5; Psalm 119:105; Psalm 12:6; Psalm 18:30; and Proverbs 25:18. What common thread runs through them all?

"The law of God is a transcript of His character. Its holy precepts were spoken from Sinai amidst the fire and cloud and written with His finger upon tables of stone. They are spiritual rules, dealing with the motives, the springs of their supreme importance. They mean life to the obedient and death to the disobedient. Through the ages God's law has been preserved as the highest standard of morality. Not all the inventions of men and all the imaginations of fruitful minds have been able to discover one essential point to add to it. Its requirements, in all ages, are the same. Its principles, they separate themselves from God, and they will be unable to stand before their enemies." PP 457.1

"Let no man, by scientific presentations, lead minds away from the real to the imaginary. Let God be revealed in His true greatness. God calls for reverence. Let the mind of the idolatry offered to nature, will look from nature to nature's God. God uses nature as one of His servants, to reveal His power. These things, the objects of His creation, show forth his handiwork. Of all that God has created, man, the crowning object of His creation, has the most powerful influence for good. The judgment human beings will stand before God ashamed, and confounded, because they thought, even boasted, of their power of speech, they would not obey God's law..." Lt. 294.5

Friday, January 19

Further Thought

"My heart yearns for those I love, the precious souls for whom Christ died. I see the judgment human beings will stand before God ashamed, and confounded, because they thought, even boasted, of their power of speech, they would not obey God's law..." Lt. 294.5