The Last Days Lesson 10, 3rd Quarter August 31-Sept. 6, 2024. THE BOOK OF MARK Sabbath Afternoon August 31 **Memory Text:** "And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. And then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven. KJV — Mark 13:26, 27 "Christ is coming with clouds and with great glory. A multitude of shining angels will attend Him. He will come to raise the dead, and to change the living saints from glory to glory. He will come to honor those who have loved Him, and kept His commandments, and to take them to Himself. He has not forgotten them nor His promise. There will be a relinking of the family chain. When we look upon our

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dead, we may think of the morning when the trump of God shall sound, when "the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed." 1 Corinthians 15:52. A little longer, and we shall see the King in His beauty. A little longer, and He will wipe all tears from our eyes. A little longer, and He will present us "faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy." Jude 1:24. Wherefore, when He gave the signs of His coming He said, "When these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh." DA 632.3

"But the day and the hour of His coming Christ has not revealed. He stated plainly to His disciples that He Himself could not make known the day or the hour of His second appearing. Had He been at liberty to reveal this, why need He have exhorted them to maintain an attitude of constant expectancy? There are those who claim to know the very day and hour of our Lord's appearing. Very earnest are they in mapping out the future. But the Lord has warned them off the ground they occupy. The exact time of the second coming of the Son of man is God's mystery." DA 632.4

Sunday, September 1 **Two Little Coins in the Offering** Read Mark 12:41-44. How much did the widow give and what did Jesus have to say about that? "Jesus was in the court where were the treasure chests, and He watched those who came to deposit their gifts. Many of the rich brought large sums, which they presented with great ostentation. Jesus looked upon them sadly, but made no comment on their liberal offerings. Presently His countenance lighted as He saw a poor widow approach hesitatingly, as though fearful of being observed. As the

rich and haughty swept by, to deposit their offerings, she shrank back as if hardly daring to venture

looked at the gift in her hand. It was very small in comparison with the gifts of those around her, yet it

away. But in doing this she caught the eye of Jesus, which was fastened earnestly upon her. DA 614.4

"The Saviour called His disciples to Him, and bade them mark the widow's poverty. Then His words of

commendation fell upon her ear: "Of a truth I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast in more

than they all." Tears of joy filled her eyes as she felt that her act was understood and appreciated.

fed priests, it would be lost sight of among the many costly gifts brought to the treasury. But Jesus

was anxious to do her utmost to sustain it. She did what she could, and her act was to be a

that had prompted the deed. DA 615.1

another, that shall not be thrown down." DA 627.2

Many would have advised her to keep her pittance for her own use; given into the hands of the well-

understood her motive. She believed the service of the temple to be of God's appointment, and she

monument to her memory through all time, and her joy in eternity. Her heart went with her gift; its

value was estimated, not by the worth of the coin, but by the love to God and the interest in His work

"Jesus said of the poor widow, She "hath cast in more than they all." The rich had bestowed from their

farther. And yet she longed to do something, little though it might be, for the cause she loved. She

was her all. Watching her opportunity, she hurriedly threw in her two mites, and turned to hasten

abundance, many of them to be seen and honored by men. Their large donations had deprived them of no comfort, or even luxury; they had required no sacrifice, and could not be compared in value with the widow's mite." DA 615.2

Monday, September 2 **Not One Stone on Another** Read Mark 13:1-13. How did the disciples respond to Jesus' statement about the temple, and what is the significance of Jesus' answer to them? "As Christ's attention was attracted to the magnificence of the temple, what must have been the unuttered thoughts of that Rejected One! The view before Him was indeed beautiful, but He said with sadness, I see it all. The buildings are indeed wonderful. You point to these walls as apparently indestructible; but listen to My words: The day will come when "there shall not be left one stone upon

"Christ's words had been spoken in the hearing of a large number of people; but when He was alone,

Peter, John, James, and Andrew came to Him as He sat upon the Mount of Olives. "Tell us," they said,

"when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of Thy coming, and of the end of the world?"

Jesus did not answer His disciples by taking up separately the destruction of Jerusalem and the great

future events as He beheld them, they would have been unable to endure the sight. In mercy to them

He blended the description of the two great crises, leaving the disciples to study out the meaning for

themselves. When He referred to the destruction of Jerusalem, His prophetic words reached beyond

that event to the final conflagration in that day when the Lord shall rise out of His place to punish the

world for their iniquity, when the earth shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain.

This entire discourse was given, not for the disciples only, but for those who should live in the last

day of His coming. He mingled the description of these two events. Had He opened to His disciples

scenes of this earth's history." DA 628.1

Tuesday, September 3 The Abomination of Desolation Read Mark 13:14-18. What clue does Jesus give in figuring out what the "abomination of desolation" refers to? "And the Saviour warned His followers: "When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) then let them which be in Judea flee into the mountains." Matthew 24:15, 16; Luke 21:20, 21. When the idolatrous standards of the Romans should be set up in the holy ground, which extended some furlongs outside the city walls, then the followers of Christ were to find safety in flight. When the warning sign should be seen, those who would escape must make no delay. Throughout the land of Judea, as well as in Jerusalem itself, the signal for flight must be immediately obeyed. He who chanced to be upon the housetop must not go down into his house, even to save his most valued treasures. Those who were working in the fields or vineyards must not take time to return for the outer garment laid aside while they should be toiling in the heat of the day. They must not hesitate a moment, lest they be involved in the general destruction." GC 25.4

Read Daniel 9:26, 27. Who is the "anointed One," and who is "the prince who is to come"?

the people of the prince [the Romans] that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary

Then after "seven weeks" plus "threescore and two weeks [483 years] shall Messiah be cut off,...and

[fulfilled by Titus about 70 A.D.]; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the

war desolations are determined. And He [Christ] shall confirm the covenant with many for one week

[seven years, beginning at His baptism]: and in the midst of the week [in the midst of the seven years]

He shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease [by the sacrifice of Himself and by its transfer to

sanctuary taking the place of the earthly sanctuary, with Christ Himself being the high priest], and for

the overspreading of abominations He shall make it [the temple in Jerusalem] desolate [His presence

completely removed], even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the

desolate." Dan. 9:25-27

Wednesday, September 4

The Great Tribulation

said, 'those days shall be shortened." DA 630.5

what warning does he dive them as it closes?

"But for the elect's sake," He said, "those days shall be shortened.' DA 630.5

the heavenly sanctuary: His sacrifice taking the place of the earthly sacrifice, and thus the heavenly

Read Mark 13:19. What does this verse refer to?

"From the destruction of Jerusalem, Christ passed on rapidly to the greater event, the last link in the

chain of this earth's history,—the coming of the Son of God in majesty and glory. Between these two

with blood and tears and agony. Upon these scenes His disciples could not then endure to look, and

since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be

more than a thousand years such persecution as the world had never before known was to come

Jesus passed them by with a brief mention. "Then shall be great tribulation," He said, "such as was not

shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened." For

upon Christ's followers. Millions upon millions of His faithful witnesses were to be slain. Had not God's

hand been stretched out to preserve His people, all would have perished. "But for the elect's sake," He

Read Mark 13:20-23. What hope does Christ offer His people during the time of persecution, and

"Now, in unmistakable language, our Lord speaks of His second coming, and He gives warning of

believe it not. For there shall arise false christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and

wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you

before. Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, He is in the desert; go not forth: behold, He is in

the secret chambers; believe it not. For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto

destruction, Christ had said, "Many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many." False prophets

did rise, deceiving the people, and leading great numbers into the desert. Magicians and sorcerers,

prophecy was spoken also for the last days. This sign is given as a sign of the second advent. Even

now false christs and false prophets are showing signs and wonders to seduce His disciples. Do we

not hear the cry, "Behold, He is in the desert"? Have not thousands gone forth into the desert, hoping

the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." As one of the signs of Jerusalem's

claiming miraculous power, drew the people after them into the mountain solitudes. But this

to find Christ? And from thousands of gatherings where men profess to hold communion with

departed spirits is not the call now heard, "Behold, He is in the secret chambers"? This is the very

dangers to precede His advent to the world. "If any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there;

events, there lay open to Christ's view long centuries of darkness, centuries for His church marked

claim that spiritism puts forth. But what says Christ? 'Believe it not. For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." DA 631.1 Thursday, September 5 The Coming of the Son of Man

"The Saviour gives signs of His coming, and more than this, He fixes the time when the first of these

signs shall appear: "Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the

moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall

be shaken: and then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of

the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and

great glory. And He shall send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather

"At the close of the great papal persecution, Christ declared, the sun should be darkened, and the

moon should not give her light. Next, the stars should fall from heaven. And He says, "Learn a parable

of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh:

so likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that He is near, even at the doors." Matthew

"Christ has given signs of His coming. He declares that we may know when He is near, even at the

doors. He says of those who see these signs, "This generation shall not pass, till all these things be

fulfilled." These signs have appeared. Now we know of a surety that the Lord's coming is at hand.

"Christ is coming with clouds and with great glory. A multitude of shining angels will attend Him. He

those who have loved Him, and kept His commandments, and to take them to Himself. He has not

will come to raise the dead, and to change the living saints from glory to glory. He will come to honor

forgotten them nor His promise. There will be a relinking of the family chain. When we look upon our

"Heaven and earth shall pass away," He says, "but My words shall not pass away." DA 632.2

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dead, we may think of the morning when the trump of God shall sound, when "the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed." 1 Corinthians 15:52. A little longer, and we shall see the King in His beauty. A little longer, and He will wipe all tears from our eyes. A little longer, and He will present us "faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy." Jude 1:24. Wherefore, when He gave the signs of His coming He said, 'When these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh." DA 632.3

24:32, 33, margin. DA 632.1

Read Mark 13:24-32. What great event is described here?

Friday, September 6

Further Thought "After He had given the signs of His coming, Christ said, "When ye see these things come to pass," know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand." "Take ye heed, watch and pray." God has always given men warning of coming judgments. Those who had faith in His message for their time, and who acted out their faith, in obedience to His commandments, escaped the judgments that fell upon the disobedient and unbelieving. The word came to Noah, "Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before Me." Noah obeyed and was saved. The message came to Lot, "Up, get you out of this place; for the Lord will destroy this city." Genesis 7:1; 19:14. Lot placed himself

under the guardianship of the heavenly messengers, and was saved. So Christ's disciples were given warning of the destruction of Jerusalem. Those who watched for the sign of the coming ruin, and fled from the city, escaped the destruction. So now we are given warning of Christ's second coming and of the destruction to fall upon the world. Those who heed the warning will be saved. DA 634.1 "Because we know not the exact time of His coming, we are commanded to watch. "Blessed are those rejecting His offers of mercy. Those who are watching for the Lord are purifying their souls by

servants, whom the Lord when He cometh shall find watching." Luke 12:37. Those who watch for the Lord's coming are not waiting in idle expectancy. The expectation of Christ's coming is to make men fear the Lord, and fear His judgments upon transgression. It is to awaken them to the great sin of obedience to the truth. With vigilant watching they combine earnest working. Because they know that the Lord is at the door, their zeal is quickened to co-operate with the divine intelligences in working for the salvation of souls. These are the faithful and wise servants who give to the Lord's household "their portion of meat in due season." Luke 12:42. They are declaring the truth that is now specially applicable. As Enoch, Noah, Abraham, and Moses each declared the truth for his time, so will Christ's servants now give the special warning for their generation." DA 634.2

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