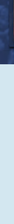
# What More Could I Have Done?

Lesson 11, 1st Quarter, March 8-14, 2025



**Sabbath Afternoon March 8**

## Memory Text:

"Plate therefore laid unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice." KJV — John 18:37

"Why God Permitted Abraham to Suffer Sorrow

"Abraham continued to journey southward, and again his faith was tested. The heavens withhold their rain, and the flocks and herds found no pasture. Starvation threatened the whole encampment. All were eagerly watching to see what Abraham would do, as trouble after trouble came. So long as his confidence appeared unbroken, they felt that there was hope; they were encouraged to hope that God would yet deliver them. Amid all perplexing loss, FT 1.1

"Abraham held fast the promise, "I will bless thee, and make thy name great, and thou shall be a blessing." He realized that these circumstances to make his faith in God's word. The trial was a terrible test even to Egypt. He did not in his extremity turn back to the Chaldean land from which he came. Every difficulty and temporary refuge was near as possible to the Land of Promise. FT 1.2

"The Lord in His providence brought this great trial upon Abraham to teach him lessons for the benefit of all who should afterward be called to endure affliction. God does not forget or cast off those who put their trust in Him. The trials that befall us are for our benefit and make it known that God has forsaken us or has ceased to care for Christ. We may lay all our burdens at His feet and experience the peace which He will give us in exchange. FF 77.2

"It is in the heat of the furnace that the dross is separated from the true gold of Christian character. By close, testing trials God disciplines His servants. He sees that some have powers which may be used in the advancement of His work. In His providence he brings them into circumstances that test the character, and develop the powers God has given them. Sometimes he gives them opportunity to correct these defects, he shows them their own weakness and teaches them to lean upon Him. They are disciplined, trained, and disciplined, prepared to fulfill the great purpose for which their powers were given them. Heavenly angels can unite with them in the work to be accomplished on earth." FF 77.3

**Sunday, March 9**

## Christ the Victor

Read Ps 18:31. What does this tell us about Christ's work to counter the deceptions of the enemy? Ps 18:31 Who is God? Who is God?

"The government under which Jesus lived was corrupt and oppressive; on every hand were crying abuses—extortion, oppression, and robbery. The Roman yoke was heavy upon the people. Satan, the attacked no national abuses, nor did he condemn the national enemies. He did not interfere with the authority or administration of those in power. He made no attempt to reform the evils of earthly governments. Not because he was indifferent to the woes of men, but because the remedy did not lie in human reforms. Satan knew that if he could succeed in his purpose, he would win individually, and must regenerate the heart. DA 500.1

"Not by the decisions of courts or councils or legislative assemblies, not by the patronage of worldly great men, is the kingdom of Christ established, but by the implanting of Christ's nature in humanity through the work of the Holy Spirit. "As many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." Jn 1:12. It is here is the only power that can worth the uplifting of mankind. And the honest agency for the accomplishment of this work is the teaching and practicing of the word of God." DA 509.4

"Plate therefore said unto Him, Art Thous a king then? Jesus answered. Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth My voice." DA 727.2

"Christ affirmed that His word was in itself a key which would unlock the mystery to those who were prepared to receive it. It had a self-commending power, and this was the secret of the spread of the kingdom of truth. He desired Pilate to understand that only by receiving and appropriating truth could his ruined nature be reconstructed." DA 727.3

**Monday, March 10**

## The Just and the Justifier

Read Romans 3:20-26 and Romans 5:8. What do these passages reveal about the way Christ defeats the allegations of the devil?

"Abundant grace has been provided that the believing soul may be kept free from sin; for all who have faith in God are made partakers of the divine nature, and are kept by the power of God through faith. Christ is the source of all true Christian grace; it is through Him alone that we are saved. In ourselves we are sinners; but in Christ we are righteous. Having made us righteous through the imputed righteousness of Christ, God promises us peace, and treats us as just. He looks upon us as His dear children. Christ works against the power of sin, and where sin abounded, grace much more abounds. "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ by whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God." Romans 5:1-2. FW 30.1

"When Christ bowed His head and died, He bore the plaites of Satan's kingdom with Him to the earth. He vanquished Satan. 1SM 343.3

"Christ submitted to crucifixion, although the heavenly host could have delivered Him. The angels suffered with Christ. Heaven could not witness the sufferings of the Son of God, and yet live. Those who reject Christ, those who will not have Him to rule over them, choose to place themselves under the rule of Satan, to do his work as his bondsmen. Yet for them Christ yielded up His life on Calvary!5T 452.1

Read Revelation 12:10-12 in light of Genesis 3:15. How does this passage shed light on the cosmic significance of Christ's victory at the cross?

Satan saw that his disguise was torn away. His administration was laid open for the unfallen angels and before the heavenly universe. He had revealed himself as a murderer. By shedding the blood of Christ, Satan had lost his sacred character. Heretofore, he had been a covered cherub, hedged, beneficent he seed was manifest. Whenever obstacle he might assume, he could no longer assert the angels as they came from the heavenly court. Before the universe Christ's testimony of being clothed with the garments of baseness and the defilement of sin. The last link of sympathy between Satan and the heavenly world was broken. DA 761.2

"Satan was the first disciple. The angels did not take them understand of that was modeled in the great controversy. The principles at stake were to be more fully revealed. And for the sake of man, Satan's character must be exposed. The work of angels must see the principle between the Prince of light and the prince of darkness. He must choose whom he will serve. SA 51.1

**Tuesday, March 11**

## The Song of My Beloved

Read Isaiah 5:1-4. Who is speaking in these verses? Whom is Isaiah speaking about? Whom do the vineyard and vineyard owner represent? What is the significance of the actions of the vineyard owner in the parable of the vineyard in the result?

"The Lord had through Moses set before His people the result of unfaithfulness. By refusing to keep His covenant, they would be cut off from the inheritance. The Lord had spoken through Isaiah concerning the same. At these warnings were heeded, and rich blessings were bestowed upon the Jewish nation. Israel was a vineyard which God had planted. He had chosen it as the choicest vine, they forgot God and lost sight of their high privilege as His representatives. They robbed Him of the glory which should have been given Him. Instead of being a blessing to the surrounding nations, they everyone. They decided appropriate to themselves the fruitfulness of the vineyard over which they had been made stewards. Their covetousness and greed caused them to be despised even by the heathen. The Jewish nation was given every advantage to ministered to their spiritual and the laws of His kingdom. PK 261.1

"Christ, who was God, dwelt with His people. He pleaded with them by men sin given and mercies withdrawn. Patiently He set their sins before them and in forbearance waited for their acknowledgment. Prophets and messengers were sent to urge His claim upon the backsliders but, instead of being welcomed, these met ill discurtement and spiritual power were treated as enemies. The backsliders persecuted and killed them. God sent still others, messengers, they received the same treatment as the first, only that the hudsandman showed still more deed manifested hatred. PK 261.2

"The withdrawal of divine favor during the period of the Exile led many to repentance, yet after their return to the Land of Promise the Jewish people repeated the mistakes of former generations and brought themselves into political conflict with surrounding nations. The prophecies of Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel had foretold the Exile, and had also given instruction and sums that had been lost sight of in the beginning of earlier times, and thus, from century to century, the keepers of the vineyard added to their guilt. PK 21.2

"The goodly vine planted by the divine hudsandman upon the hills of Palestine was despised by the nations round about. The Jewish people had been given the law of God, which was to be their wisdom in the sight of the nations, and they were to be a peculiar treasure, and be looked that it should be concealed from their sight. Again He planted it, but on the other side of the wall and in such a manner that the nations could see and admire. The branches hung over the wall, and grew might be joined to it, but the stem itself was placed beyond the power of men to reach or harm. PK 21.3

"If special aids to the Jews in their work of building up the kingdom of God, and of the spread of courtesy and admiration given through the prophets who have made plain His eternal purpose in behalf of mankind, the Lord of the vineyard, the Jews, his love for his vine, and his plan for their salvation are clearly re-vealed. The story of Israel's call, of their successes and failures, of their restoration to favor, and their neglect of the Master of the vineyard, and of the carry out of the plan of the ages by a goodly remnant to whom are to be fulfilled all the covenant promises, is a story that should be studied by every Christian. Every one who has been called, and that have passed, And today God's message to His church—to those who are occupying His vineyard as faithful hudsandmen—is none other than that spoken through the prophet of old. PK 22.1

"Sing ye unto her, A vineyard of wine. I the Lord do keep it; I will water it every moment: lest any hurt it, I will keep it night and day." Isaiah 27:2-3. PK 22.2

"Let Israel hope in God. The Master of the vineyard is even now gathering from among men of all nations and peoples the precious fruits for which He has long been waiting. Soon He will come with His reward and bring the long-delayed purpose for the house of Israel will finally be fulfilled. The shall cause them that come of Jacob to take root: Israel shall blossom and bud, and fill the face of the world with fruit." Verse 6. PK 22.3

**Wednesday, March 12**

## Christ's Parable of the Vineyard

Read Matthew 21:33-39 with particularly the question of Isaiah 5:4 in mind. What more could He do that was not done?

"There was a certain houshelder," Christ said, "which planted a vineyard, and hedged it round about, and digged a winepress in it, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country." Verse 33.

"A description of this vineyard is given by the prophet Isaiah: "Now will I sing to my wellbeloved a song of my beloved touching my vineyard. My wellbeloved hath a vineyard in a very fruitful hill: and He hoeed it, and gathered out the stones thereof, and planted it with the choicest vine, and built a tower in the midst of it, and also made a winepress therein: and He looked that it should bring forth grapes." Isaiah 5:1-2. COL 284.3

"The husbandman represents God as great farm from the wilderness; He forces, clears, and tills it, and plants it with choice vines, expecting a rich harvest. This plot of ground, in its superiority to the surrounding country, is a fitting emblem of Israel. It is the heritage of God, and it is to be the cultivation. So God had chosen a people from the world to be trained and educated by Christ. The Lord of the vineyard, the Jews, his love for his vine, and his plan for their salvation are clearly re-vealed. "Sing ye unto her, A vineyard of wine." Christ, the great prophet, speaking as Moses from which flung from His abundant goodness, He looked for them to her or Him by yielding fruit. They were to be a peculiar treasure, to be the inheritance of God. Israel, of a fallen, degenerate race, represent the character of God. COL 285.1

"As the Lord's vineyard, the Jews were to produce fruit altogether different from that of the heathen nations. These idolatrous peoples had given themselves up to vaire wickedness. Violence and crime, gross sensuality and all manner of evil practices, were indulged without restraint. Impiety, degradation, and misery were the fruits of the corrupt tree. In marked contrast was to be the fruit borne in the Lord's goodly vineyard. COL 285.2

"It was the privilege of the Jewish nation to represent the character of God as it had been revealed to Moses, to manifest to the world the goodness, the grace, the truth, the compassion, I will make all my goodness pass before thee." Exo 33:18-19. "And the Lord passed by before him, and proclaimed, The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin." Verse 6, 7. This was the character of God, and it was to be reproduced in the Jewish characters, in the lives of the Jews, in their money and loving kindness to the poor. The Jews were to show that "the law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul." Psalm 19:7. COL 285.3

"Through the Jewish nation it was God's purpose to impart rich blessings to all peoples. Through the Jewish nation was to be revealed the character of God, and through them was to be given to the world, through following certain precious, had lost the knowledge of God. Yet in this mercy God did not limit their out of existence. He purposed to give them opportunity for becoming acquainted with men through this church, He designed that the principles revealed through His people should be the means of restoring the moral image of God in man. COL 286.1

"It was for the accomplishment of this purpose that God called Abraham out from his idolatrous kindred and bade him dwell in the land of Canaan, "I will make of thee a great nation," He said, "And I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing." Genesis 12:2. COL 286.2

"The descendants of Abraham, and his posterity, were to be kept separate and to Egypt and to Canaan, that God could and would bless the right-eous, and through them bless all families of the earth. Through Israel God would work in pre-serving the lives of the whole Egyptian people were a representation of the life of Christ. Moses and many others were witnesses for God." COL 286.3

**Thursday, March 13**

## The Vindication of God's name

Read Romans 3:1-4 in light of Isaiah 5:3-4. What does this teach about God Himself being vindicated in Christ? What more could He do than what He has done?

"What could have been done more to my vineyard, that I have not done in it? God asks. "Wherefore, when I looked that it should bring forth grapes, they brought forth wild grapes?" When God called for fruit in its season, the Jewish people were surprised that he expected anything of the kind. They professed to be the most pious people on the earth. They had been emphatic guardians and processors of truth, and they should have used the Lord's goods to bless and enrich others. But they had not been faithful in improving the talents committed to their care. Not to the children of Israel was the question put in the case of Calvary. One day they will see the result of their impenitence. No longer will he bearing the plaiteds of infinite love, but the wrath of the Lamb, the power they defied, will fall upon them as a rock, grinding them to powder. 9T pp. 17, 1900. par. 16

"What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit is there of circumcision? Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God." But that which would have been the advantage of the Jew in the present dispensation, because they were disobedient, unthankful, unholy." 9T pp 17, 1900, par. 17

Read Revelation 15:3 and Revelation 19:1-6. What do these passages teach about the vindication of God's name in the end? What more could He do than what He has done?

"Every question of truth and error in the long-drawn-out controversy has been made plain. The results of rebellion, the fruits of setting aside the divine statutes, have been laid open to the view of all created beings. The working of Satan's rule in contrast with the governing government of God has been presented to the whole universe. Satan's own works have condemned him. Heaven, earth, and even the lost, have been witnesses to the fact that God has dealt with Satan in the great controversy, and that no just cause has been given for the existence of sin. Calvary and the good of all the worlds that He has created. "All thy works shall praise Thee, O Lord; and Thy saints shall bless Thee." Psalm 145:10. The history of sin will stand as a lasting and an everlasting witness that with the existence of God's law is bound up the happiness of all the beings he has created. With the cross of Christ as the great center point, the whole moral world will be drawn into harmony with and accord divine. "Such and such are I am." "You King of saints." GC 670.3

"Before the universe has been clearly presented the great sacrifice made by the Father and the Son in man's behalf. The hour has come when Christ occupies His rightful position and is glorified before angels and men. The work of redemption is almost ended, and our Lord is soon to appear before men—that he might bring many sons unto glory—that he entered the cross and despised the shame. And in consistently great as was the sorrow and the shame, yet greater is the joy and the glory. He looks upon the redeemed, renewed in His own image, every heart love by the perfect impress of the divine, every face reflecting the likeness of their King. He beholds in them the result of the work of His soul, and he is satisfied. Then, in a voice that reaches the assembled multitudes of the righteous and the wicked, he declares: "Behold the purchase of My blood! Behold My redeemed! Behold My children! Behold the souls I have purchased! Behold eternal ages." And by the voice of praise sounds from the white-robed ones above the throne: "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and glory, and blessing." Revelation 5:12. GC 671.1

**Friday, March 14**

## Further Thought

"Of Israel God declared, "I had planted thee a noble vine, wholly a right seed: how then art thou turned into the degenerate plant of a strange vine unto Me?" Jeremiah 2:21. Israel was to be a peculiar people, "separate from unclean" in the world. Their laws, their manner of life, their worship, and even their dwelling place, I pray you, believe Me and My servant, What could have been done more to make them a fruitful vine? The working of Satan's rule in contrast with the governing government of God has been presented to the whole universe. Satan's own works have condemned him. Heaven, earth, and even the lost, have been witnesses to the fact that God has dealt with Satan in the great controversy, and that no just cause has been given for the existence of sin. Calvary and the good of all the worlds that He has created. "All thy works shall praise Thee, O Lord; and Thy saints shall bless Thee." Psalm 145:10. The history of sin will stand as a lasting and an everlasting witness that with the existence of God's law is bound up the happiness of all the beings he has created. With the cross of Christ as the great center point, the whole moral world will be drawn into harmony and accord divine. "Such and such are I am." "You King of saints." GC 670.3

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"The Jewish leaders thought themselves too wise to need instruction, too righteous to need repentance. Christ could do nothing for them because they felt that they were rich, and knew not that they were in the wilderness. They had departed from God and the work they had slighted. God's glory must be revealed, His word established. Christ's kingdom must be set up in the world. The condition of things is made known in the cities of the wilderness, and the disciples were called to do the work that the Jewish leaders had failed to do." AA 16.1