The Conflict Behind All Conflicts

Lesson 4, 4th Quarter, October 18-October 24, 2025

Sabbath Afternoon Section

Memory Text:

"And there was no day like that before it or after it, that the LORD hearkened unto the voice of a man: for the LORD fought for Israel." KJV — Joshua 10:14

"God does not desire the destruction of any. "As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die?" Ezekiel 33:11. Throughout the period of probation God's mercy is extended to mankind by means not to accept the gift of life. It is only those who reject His pleading that will be lost to perish. God has declared that in eternity there will be no annihilation of the wicked. Those who cling to sin will perish in its destruction. Christ's Object Lessons, page 53.1

"The Lord is regarded as cruel by many in requiring his people to make war with other nations. They say that it is contrary to His benevolent character. But he who made the world, who knows the end from the beginning, who has the power of life and death, who has made his law to govern, and is His right to do so He gives, and what He pleases with the work of His hands. Man has no right to say to his Maker, Why deest Thou thus? There is no injustice in His character. He is the Ruler of the world, and a large portion of His subjects have rebelled against His authority, and have trampled upon His law. He has bestowed upon them liberal blessings, and surrounded them with everything needful, yet they have bowed to images of wood and stone, silver and gold, which their own hands have made. They back their children to the fire to Molech, and yet they say that God is cruel because He requires them to take their riches and honor. They scorn the Lord of Israel. They despise His people, because their works are righteous. The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable work" (Psalm 14:1). God has borne with them until they filled up the measure of their iniquity, and then He has brought upon them swift destruction. He has used His people as instruments of His wrath, to punish wicked nations, who have vexed them, and seduced them into idolatry." Christ's Object Lessons, page 53.3

Sunday October 19

Commander of the Army of the Lord

Read Joshua 5:13-15. What does this text say about the background of Canaan's conquest?

One of the strongest fortresses in the land—the large and wealthy city of Jericho—lay just before them, but a little distance from their camp at Gilgal. On the border of a fertile plain abundantly watered by the Jordan and surrounded by a range of hills, Jericho stood at the abode of luxury and vice, this proud city, behind its massive battlements, offered defiance to God and His people. Jericho was the first city to be taken in the land of Canaan, and its destruction was to be a lesson to the godless of the nations that God's people were a distinct and most degrading in the religion of the Canaanites. The people of Israel, in whose minds were fresh the fearful results of their sin at Beth-peor, could look upon this heathen city with disgust and horror. Patriarchs and Prophets, page 487.2

"Christ was present to encourage Joshua to be the leader in the conquest of Canaan. But first of all he sought an assurance of divine guidance, and it was granted him. Withstanding him was a mysterious personage who said to him, "As captain of the host of the Lord am I now come." He was commanded to behold an armed warrior, of fully stature and commanding presence, "with his sword drawn in his hand." The Lord of Sabaoth's challenge, "Art thou for us, or for our adversaries?" answer was given, "As captain of the host of the Lord am I now come." The same command was given to Joshua that had been given to Moses, "Put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy." The presence of the mysterious visitor was the presence of the Exalted One, who stood before the leader of Israel. Awe-stricken, Joshua fell upon his face and worshiped. He received the assurance, "I have given into thine hand Jericho, and the king thereof, and the mighty men of valor," and he received instruction for the capture of the city. Patriarchs and Prophets, page 487.3

Compare Joshua 5:14, 15 with 2 Kings 6:8-17, Nehemiah 9:6, and Isaiah 37:16. What do you learn about the identity of the commander of the Lord's army?

Obedience to every word of God is another condition of success. Victories are not gained by ceremonies or display, but by simple obedience to the highest General, the Lord God of Israel. Yet, he who trusts in this Leader will never know defeat. Jericho was a stronghold of human methods, human ceremonies, and placing the divine secondary. Obedience was the lesson that the Captain of the Lord's host sought to teach the vast armies of Israel, obedience to the Leader by means of which they could see no success. When there is obedience to the voice of our Leader, Christ will conduct the battle in ways that will surprise the greatest powers of earth. Testimonies for the Church, Volume 6, page 140.1

Monday October 20

War in Heaven

Joshua understood that the battle was part of a larger conflict. What do we know about the conflict in heaven and how it impacted Israel? Read Rev. 12:7-9, Isa. 14:12-14, Jude 8, 2Ti 1:9, and Dan. 10:12-14.

"Lucifer was envious and jealous of the Son of God. He was not satisfied with his position, he was not satisfied with the honor, authority, and rightful rule, he envied them; but he in what was filled with envy and hatred, he could not see. He began to question the character of God in regard to His plans, while Lucifer was unacquainted with them. He did not understand, neither was he willing to understand, the character of God. He had not acknowledged sovereign of heaven, His power and authority to be the same as that of God himself. Lucifer had not been satisfied with his position, he had not been satisfied with the honor highly exalted, but this did not call forth from his gratitude, and praise to his Creator. He aspired to the height of God himself. He gloried in his loftiness. He knew that he was honored by the angels. He had a powerful imagination to execute. He had power over the great Creator, and the ceaseless beams of glorious light endowing the eternal God have shone upon him. Lucifer had been so highly honored, he had conceived his ambitious, unauthorized plan by. Were not his genius light and beautiful? Why should Christ thus be honored before him? Testimonies for the Church, Volume 8, page 44.1

"He left the immediate presence of the Father, dissatisfied and filled with envy against Jesus, and began to lay his plans for overthrowing the angelic host, and for ruining the human subject, which was finished. As one aggrieved, he related the preference God had given Jesus to the angels, and the honor which God had bestowed upon the human family, which was to be his subject, and which he was to rule. He said that God had made a great mistake in bestowing honor upon the human family, and that he was the one who should be honored, and that he was the one who should be honored, and that he was the one who should be honored. Testimonies for the Church, Volume 8, page 44.2

"Christ was present to encourage Joshua, Lucifer and his sympathizers were striving to reform the government of God. They were discontented and unhappy because they could not understand the divine wisdom and ascertain its purposes and motives in exalting his Son, and endowing him with such unlimited power and command. They rebelled against the authority of the Son. The Great Controversy, page 36.1

"Then there was war in heaven. The Son of God, the Prince of Heaven, and His loyal angels contended with the apostate and those who united with him. The war was not with carnal weapons, but it was fierce and terrible. The loyal angels were victorious, and the apostate were expelled from heaven. All the loyal angels were joyful and delighted at the expulsion of Satan, for he and his angels had left in heaven. All was again peaceful and harmonious as before. Angels in heaven mourned that Satan, the once favored angel, had fallen from his happiness and bliss. There was now no place for him in the Paradise of God. The Great Controversy, page 36.2

"You recognize this description as being that of Lucifer; yet the prophecy is addressed to the prince of Tyrus just as Isaiah 14 associated the king of Babylon with Lucifer. By this we are to understand that Satan is the real ruler in the kingdoms of this world. Satan is at work in all the world the identical wicked work that Satan did originally in heaven. But we are here told that Satan's defeat in these endeavors will be complete and shameful.

"While Satan was striving to influence the highest powers in the kingdom of Media-Persia to carry out his purposes, he was himself overcome by the angel of God, who was sent to Daniel, one in which all heaven was interested. Through the prophet Daniel we are given a glimpse of this mighty struggle between the forces of good and the forces of evil. For three weeks Satan marshaled the powers of darkness, seeking to counteract the influence and decisions on the mind of Cyrus, and before the contest closed, Christ Himself came to Gabriel's aid." Prophets and Kings, page 157.2

Tuesday October 21

The Lord is a Warrior

Read Exodus 2:23-25, Exodus 12:12, 13, and Exodus 15:3-11. What does it mean that God is a warrior?

"This song and the great deliverance which it commemorates, made an impression never to be effaced from the memory of the Hebrew people. From age to age it was echoed by the prophets and singers of Israel, testifying that Jehovah is the strength and deliverance of His people. It was the song of Moses and the song of the Lamb, the song of redemption, forward to the destruction of all the foes of righteousness and the final victory of the Israel of God. It was the song of those who had gotten the victory over the beast, and his image, and his mark, and his name, and the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, and having the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the lambs." Revelation 15:2, 3." Patriarchs and Prophets, page 289.1

"For the value of the few who are loyal, whose happiness was exposed to the seductions, influence of the multitude who rebelled against God, he spared the world from the family the unduteful children, while at the same time he latters to bring closer to himself the remaining faithful ones, who would forever be an example to the universe of God's mercy, in punishing most severely his unduteful, rebellious children. Selected Messages, Book 2, page 280.1

"God has dealt thus with His children. But man, in his blindness, will overlook the mercies and blessings, and pass by unnoticed the goodness and long-suffering and rebellion and heaven-daring sins of those who trample upon God's law and defy his authority. They do not realize that God is not in sympathy with such a course of action. He will not let the transgressors and show upon contempt for the wise requirements of Jehovah. Selected Messages, Book 2, page 281.1

"Some can see only the destruction of God's enemies, which looks to them unmerciful and severe. They do not look upon the other side. But he everlasting thanks be given, that impulsive, changeable man, with all his biased benevolence, is not the dispser and controller of events. "The tender mercies of the wicked are cruel" (Proverbs 12:10)—Spiritual Gifts 4a:45.12." Selected Messages, Book 2, page 334.4

"Before the evening fell, God's purpose to Israel had been fulfilled. The entire host of the enemy had been given into his hand. Long were the events of that day to remain in the memory of Israel. "There was no day like that before it or after it, that Jehovah hearkened unto the voice of a man: for the Lord fought for Israel." The sun and moon stood still in their habitation, and the Lord cast down stones from heaven upon the enemy. The stones were prepared for the battle, and God brought the land in indignation. They shall thresh the heathen in anger. Thou wentest forth for the salvation of Thy people." Habakkuk 3:11-13." Patriarchs and Prophets, page 508.3

Wednesday October 22

The Lord Will Fight for You.

According to Exodus 14:13, 14, 25, what was God's original and ideal plan concerning the Deliverance of the Israelites in Canaan?

"True, there was no possibility of deliverance unless God Himself should interpose for their rescue. Pursued by the chariots of Egypt into the impassable wilderness by the divine decree, Moses felt no fear of the consequences. His calm and assuring reply to the people was, Fear ye not, stand ye still, and see the salvation of God, which He will show to you today: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen today, ye shall see them again no more forever. The Lord shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace." Patriarchs and Prophets, page 280.1

"But now, as the Egyptian host approached them, expecting to make them an easy prey, the pillar of cloud moved from behind the Israelites, and spread its darkness and impenetrable between them and the armies of Egypt. A wall of darkness interposed between the pursued and the pursuers. The Egyptians could not, in their rage, discern the cause of the darkness, and were forced to halt. But as the darkness of night deepened, the wall of cloud became a great light, shining like the noonday, and holding the entire encampment of Israel in its rays. Patriarchs and Prophets, page 284.3

"Then hope returned to the hearts of Israel. And Moses lifted up his voice unto the Lord. "And the Lord said unto Moses, Wherefore cried thou unto Me? speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward: lift thou up thy rod, and stretch thy hand over the sea, and divide it: and the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea." Patriarchs and Prophets, page 287.1

"The psalmist, describing the passage of the sea by Israel, sang, "Thy way was in the sea, and Thy paths in the great waters, and Thy footsteps were not known. Thou leddest Thy people like a flock, by the hand of Moses and Aaron." Psalm 77:19, 20; K.K. Moses stretched out his hand, and the waters were divided. The people of God went in at the gate of the sea, and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand and on their left. The light from the pillar of fire shone upon the foam-capped billows, and lighted the road that was cut like a mighty furrow through the waters. Fear and awe fell upon the Egyptians. Patriarchs and Prophets, page 287.2

"The Egyptians pursued, and were in close order in the midst of the sea, even of Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. And it came to pass, that in the morning watch the Lord looked unto the host of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and of the cloud, and troubled the host of the Egyptians." The impetuous cloud changed to a pillar of fire before their astonished eyes. The hundred people and the lightnings flashed. "The clouds poured out water; the skies sent out a sound. Thine arrows also went abroad. The voice of Thy thunder was in the heaven: the lightnings lightened the world: the earth trembled and shook." Psalm 77:17, 18; K.K. Patriarchs and Prophets, page 287.3

"The Egyptians were seized with confusion and dismay. Amid the wrath of the elements, in which they heard the voice of an angry God, they endeavored to retrace their steps and flee to the shore they had just left behind. But Moses stretched out his rod, and the pillar-as-waters, moving, roaring, and eager for their prey, rushed together and swallowed the Egyptian army in their black depths." Patriarchs and Prophets, page 287.4

Thursday October 23

The Second-Best Option

Read Exodus 17:7-13 and Joshua 6:15-20. What similarities do you find between these two war narratives? Why do they differ?

"Moses held up his hands toward Heaven, with the rod of God in his right hand, entreating help from God. Then Israel prevailed, and drove back their enemies. When Moses let down his hands, Israel was ready to give way, and the battle was turned against them, and they were pursued by their enemies. Moses again held up his hands toward Heaven, and Israel prevailed, and drove back their enemies. Spiritual Gifts, Volume 3, page 250.1

"This act of Moses, reaching up his hands toward God, was to teach Israel that while they made God their trust, and laid hold upon his strength, and exalted his throne, he would fight for them, and subdue their enemies. But when they should let go their hold upon his strength, and should cease to exalt his throne, and should become self-sufficient, and self-righteous, they would be ignorant of his knowledge of God, and their enemies would prevail over them. Then joshua "discomfited Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword. And the Lord said unto Moses, Write this for a memorial in a book, and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua: for I will utterly put out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven. And Moses built an altar, and called the name of it Jehovah-nissi: For he said, Because the Lord hath sworn that the Lord will have war against Amalek from generation to generation." The children of Israel had not murmured against the Lord, he would not have suffered their enemies to make war against them. Spiritual Gifts, Volume 3, page 258.2

"God intended to show the Israelites that the conquest of Canaan was not to be accomplished by them. The Captain of the Lord's hosts overcame Jericho, he and his angels were engaged in the work, and God would have the Israelites understand that they could do nothing of themselves. He would have them see that he was their leader, and that they were to follow in his ways. God would not only strengthened the faith of his people in his power to subdue their enemies, but rebuked their former unbelief. Spiritual Gifts, Volume 4a, page 64.1

"Jericho had defied the armies of Israel, and the God of Heaven. And as they beheld the loss of Israel marching around their city once each day, they were alarmed, but they looked at their strong defenses, their firm and high walls, and felt sure, that they could resist any attack. But when at a sudden their firm walls tottered and fell, with a stunning crash, like peals of louder thunder, they were paralyzed with terror, and could offer no resistance." Spiritual Gifts, Volume 4a, page 64.2

Friday October 24

Further Thought

"The decree that Israel was not to enter Canaan for forty years was a bitter disappointment to Moses and Israel, and Caleb and Joshua yet suffered in common with those upon whom the decree fell. But those who had been complaining of God's dealings with them, and declaring their preference for Egypt, wept and murmured against the decree, because they thought they had despised were taken from them. They had complained at nothing, and now God gave them something to cry for. The great decree gained the victory by leading them to relention the second time. They had discussed the power of God to work with their efforts in gaining possession of Canaan, and now they presumed upon their own strength to accomplish the work independent of divine aid. "We have sinned against the Lord," they cried, "we will go up and fight, according to all that the Lord our God commanded us." Their confession was a terribly blinded they because by transgression. The Lord had never commanded them to "go up and fight." It was not His purpose that they should gain the land by warfare, but by strict obedience to His commands." Patriarchs and Prophets, page 390.3

For further studies, feel free to contact us:
+234-8034-767-677
coneadventcoudenbeathschool.org