的记忆经文：‘我听见从宝座发出的响亮声音。它说，‘现在神要使他的家成为人的家。他要在他们中间与他们同住。他们要成为他的百姓。神要与他们同在，成为他们的神。神要擦去他们眼中的泪，不再有死亡、悲伤、哭泣或疼痛。一切的事物不再像以前的样子。’”（启示录21:3,4，NIrV）

重要思想：神将完成他在基督上的救赎工作，并恢复（带回到）世界和平。

救赎的工作为了我们的利益将会达到最大的目标。这时，地球将会完全恢复到宇宙中上帝的统一、和平和安全的宇宙王国。主正在把罪人变成圣徒，有一天他们将生活在这样的王国中。他的救赎计划包括通过创造的进程改变人和自然世界。这种创造也将结束基督与撒旦之间的伟大战争。然后，主将单独建立这个完美社会。这个社会将被一个爱和公义的上帝建立，该上帝派他的儿子为罪人死。他这样做是为了使这些罪人有一天能够成为他的宇宙和永恒（永远；无尽）的王国的一部分。这个计划，包括在被实现之前，将包括彻底清除所有的邪恶。

1. 赦罪——我们通过耶稣在十字架上的牺牲（死亡）得到的赦罪和净化。
2. 救赎——神的计划为从永恒（无尽）的死亡中拯救罪人。
3. 宇宙——所有被发现（发现）或我们已知的物质（事物）、光和能量（自然中起作用的力）。
4. 统一——当两个或更多的人或事物联合在一起成为一个；当两个或更多的人在在思想、情感等方面有共识。
Lesson 13

Atonement and Peace Everywhere

**SUNDAY—DECEMBER 21**

**THE CLEANSING (TO MAKE CLEAN) OF THE UNIVERSE**
(Daniel 8:13, 14)

How does Daniel describe the final victory of God over the forces of evil in Daniel 8:13, 14?

Daniel uses the Day of Atonement as a symbol (word-picture) to describe the successful end of God’s work of saving people through Christ. The heavenly temple is where God has been dealing with the sin problem through Christ as High Priest. Christ’s work as High Priest will come to an end through the final cleansing of the universe from sin and rebellious sinners. This has been going on since the end of the 2,300 “days.” This cleansing is connected with God’s end-time judgment. In Daniel 7 this work of judgment takes place in a court setting. God’s angels are there (Daniel 7:9, 10, 22). This court setting shows that the sinners’ final destruction (end) has a legal (lawful) foundation (basis).

According to Hebrews 9:23, how does the work of high priest in the earthly sanctuary in the Old Testament find its fulfillment in Christ’s work as High Priest for sinners?

The cleansing power of the sacrifice of Christ is symbolized by the cleansing service done by the Levitical high priest during the Day of Atonement service in the earthly sanctuary. This points to the successful end of Christ’s work as High Priest in the cleansing of the heavenly sanctuary. This really means His work of judgment. In Hebrews the cleansing of the heavenly sanctuary points back to the cleansing done by the sacrifice of Christ. It also points forward to its final completion in the experience of His faithful people at the Second Coming (Hebrews 9:28). And this cleansing points forward to the coming and setting up of the kingdom of God (Hebrews 12:28). This takes place when all the enemies of Christ, who have already been defeated (Hebrews 2:14), will “be put under his [Jesus’] control” (Hebrews 10:13, NIV). This cleansing will lead to God’s executive judgment (punishment) that “will burn up his enemies” (verse 27, NIV). This act will be the final cleansing of the universe from sin and evil.

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5. rebellious—fighting or struggling against authority (laws or rules) or any kind of control (power).
6. earthly sanctuary—the home of God on earth in early Bible times, where the high priest offered prayers and the blood of animals to God for the sins of the people of Israel.
7. symbolized—represented; shown to mean the same as.
8. Levitical—having to do with the priests of Israel from the tribe of Levi who served in the temple of God.
9. Day of Atonement service—an event that took place once a year in which the Jewish sanctuary (house of God on earth) was cleansed (made clean) of sin. Day of Atonement services represented a final removal of sin and a completely restored relationship with God.
10. heavenly sanctuary—the place in heaven where Jesus works as our High Priest before the throne of God.
11. sacrifice—the act of giving up something of value, such as a life, to help save someone or something.
Finally, the Seventh-day Adventist hope at the Second Coming also will include a peaceful fellowship. This is our final renewal and restoration\(^\text{17}\) that will not be threatened by sin.

Why are all these promises described above so important to us? What would our faith be without them? Why must our hope rest on things beyond what this present world offers?


tuesday—december 23

judging the evil powers and the wicked (1 corinthians 4:5)

the return of christ means that we will live with jesus forever.

why are all these promises described above so important to us? what would our faith be without them? why must our hope rest on things beyond what this present world offers?

vindication\(^\text{12}\) of god’s people (hebrews 9:27, 28)

what do hebrews 9:27, 28 and 1 corinthians 15:51–54 describe? and what hope do they offer us?

our full hope in christ rests, first, in the complete change of human nature\(^\text{13}\) (1 corinthians 15:53). this takes place when we go from our sinful self to our true self. the new self is no longer twisted by sin. we will get rid of death too.

second, our hope at the second coming will be gained when all kinds of evil are removed. this will lead to a new style of life, one without the influence\(^\text{14}\) of sin. free of the sin that controls all societies and cultures,\(^\text{15}\) we will be restored to the way of life originally created by god for humans.

third, the christian hope at the return of christ will mean that we can meet and fellowship with our savior forever. believers look forward to a time when they will live in the presence of the savior, never to be separated again (1 thessalonians 4:17). this permanent (lasting forever; without change) union\(^\text{16}\) with our lord and savior will improve our lifestyle so much in ways we cannot even begin to imagine now.

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12. vindication—proving that god’s people are not guilty because of the righteousness (holiness) of jesus that they received in place of their sins. this vindication will show they are worthy to enter heaven.

13. human nature—any of the qualities or aspects of humans (men, women, and children) that make us who we are. without god, our natures are sinful, fallen, selfish, proud, unkind, and so on.

14. influence—the power to affect or change persons or things.

15. cultures—the ways that people live, dress, think, eat, and socialize with one another.

16. union—the act of joining together as one.

17. restoration—the act of returning to god. sin takes us away from god, but god brings us back to him. he puts his love and law in us and changes our hearts so that we love to obey him.
Lesson 13  

Atonement and Peace Everywhere

According to 1 Corinthians 4:5; 1 Corinthians 6:3; and Revelation 20:1–4, when and how will God deal with the problem of sin among the people who rebel (war) against God?

The answer to the sin problem does not take place all at one time because this problem is so difficult to solve quickly. And God is interested in showing the universe how fair He is. First of all, in the Bible the millennium (1,000 years) is an important event that will lead to a universe-wide example of God’s justice. It will lead to the full restoration of all the things on earth and in heaven (Colossians 1:20).

The millennium (1,000 years) shows that at the Second Coming the universe is not yet ready for unrepentant18 sinners, Satan, and his fallen angels to be destroyed. These rebellious people must be destroyed at the right time. When this happens, it will lead to the healing of the universe and the restoration of perfect peace.

Second, the millennium is a time of deep study. Time will be spent, both by the saved and Satan, studying the results of the great war. Satan and his angels, imprisoned on a desolated19 planet, will have plenty of time to think about what they have done. Together Satan and his angels will think about the results of their rebellion (war) against the loving government of God. This time will help bring peace to the universe.

Third, the study in heaven takes place in the setting of the judgment of the wicked (1 Corinthians 6:2, 3; Revelation 20:4). The saved will rule with Christ for 1,000 years, in such a way that they will work with Him as Judge. They can witness in the throne room of the universe the fact that God did all He could do to save repentant sinners. And they will know that the lost should now accept responsibility for their decisions (choices). In short, we will all believe that God’s final actions toward the lost will be right.

What does it tell us about the character of God20 that He will

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18. unrepentant—not being sorry for your sins.
19. desolated—something that has been destroyed.
20. character of God—who God is; having and understanding the character of God is the same as being kind, loving, honest, and so on. God’s law (Ten Commandments) shows us His character.
show His judgment to the universe before He destroys the lost? How can you take this knowledge of God’s character and use it in your life today, in such a way that you can learn to trust Him in all things, no matter how bad they are now?

**WEDNESDAY—DECEMBER 24**

RESTORATION AND PEACE IN THE UNIVERSE (Revelation 20:11–15)

How does the Bible describe the final answer to the problem of sin in the universe in Revelation 20:11–15 and Revelation 22:3–6?

Bible hope surrounds the universe. And it expects the moment when the restoration made possible through the blood of the Lamb will fill the whole universe. This will happen at the end of the millennium (1,000 years). At that time the wicked are restored to life, and Satan prepares to fight against God and His people in his last battle to gain full control of the world that he has always wanted. But it takes place after the millennium, after all the questions have been answered to the satisfaction of the saved. Then the enemies of God will face the record of their sin and rebellion. At this time the heavenly family will have judged the lives of the wicked at the same time the forces of evil on earth will have made theirs. There, before the throne of God, God’s justice and love publicly will be accepted by all the people involved. Even Satan, his angels, and the lost publicly will admit that they were fighting for the wrong cause. They all will confess the righteousness (holiness) of God, admit the Lordship of Christ, and accept God’s sentence pronounced against them by the righteous (holy) One (Philippians 2:9–11). In other words, the wicked will admit that they deserve to die. This is the sentence of “guilty” reached by the people of God. The whole universe is finally in perfect agreement: The forces of evil must be removed. At that time the universe will be cleansed from any doubts about the justice and love of God. Every intelligent person will be united (joined together as one) in praising God’s love and justice.
How can you learn to trust the promise found in 1 Corinthians 4:5?

THE VICTORY\textsuperscript{21} OF GOD’S LOVE (1 Corinthians 13:9–13)

We may imagine much about what our new life will be like in heaven. But for now, we know only of a world of sin and death. We find it hard to imagine what a world without sin would be like.

What is Paul saying to us from 1 Corinthians 13:9–13?

“It is the Christian hope to live forever in the heavenly home where there are no dark examples of sin and the curse, and to bear [have] the perfect likeness of our Creator. We hope to continue growing in wisdom, knowledge, and holiness and to explore new fields of thought throughout eternity.\textsuperscript{22} We hope to find new wonders, continuing to know and grow in love, knowing that there will be more joy, love, and wisdom to come.”—Adapted from Ellen G. White, \textit{Healthful Living}, page 299. We eagerly wait for the time in heaven when “every mind will have a chance to grow and develop. Acquiring [getting] knowledge will never tire people from wanting to learn more. There the greatest ambitions [goals] will be reached. But still there will be more goals to be reached, projects to be done, new wonders to be admired, new truths to be understood—all of which will require the powers of mind and soul and body.”—Adapted from Ellen G. White, \textit{The Great Controversy}, page 677.

Just imagine humans (people) traveling “from world to world” and using much of their time “in searching out the mysteries of salvation. And throughout eternity, this subject continually will be opening to their minds.”—Adapted from Ellen G. White Comments, \textit{The SDA Bible Commentary}, volume 7, page 990. Nothing will bring more joy to the saved ones than studying the mystery of their salvation and the true meaning of the cross of Christ. The glorious

\textsuperscript{21} victory—the act of winning the battle over, or winning the struggle against, something.

\textsuperscript{22} eternity—life without end; forever.
subject of the atonement will keep on challenging our deepest mental and spiritual abilities throughout eternity. At the same time we will try to gain a more complete understanding of the love of God shown on the cross.

How much time do you spend thinking about the Cross? What useless thing could you do without? Try to use more valuable time thinking about what we have been given in Jesus through the Cross.

ADDITIONAL STUDY: “The plan of salvation makes clear the justice [fairness] and love of God. It also gives an eternal safeguard against backsliding in unfallen worlds, and among those who shall be saved by the blood of the Lamb. Our only hope is perfect trust in the blood of Jesus who can give us the best chance of being saved by God through Him. The death of Christ on the cross of Calvary is our only hope in this world. And it will be our theme in the world to come. Oh, we do not understand the value of the atonement! If we did, we would talk more about it. The gift of God in his beloved Son was the example of the love that we can never fully understand. It was the best way that God could save the honor of his law, and still save the sinner.” —Adapted from Ellen G. White, Signs of the Times, December 30, 1889.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Think about the deep meaning of Ellen G. White’s words. What should they tell us about how important the Cross should be to our daily lives and walk with the Lord now?

2. Our greatest hope is going home to heaven. But how should this hope influence how we live here? How can we try to live better for others?

3. Think about what God offers us. How foolish it would be for us to put that hope on anything that this life offers us. How can you learn to pull yourself away from the things of this world that could endanger your hope of a new life in God’s eternal (forever; without end) kingdom?

23. plan of salvation—what God has done and is doing to save us from sin.