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## GLIMPSES OF OUR GOD

Who can look at those photos from the Hubble Space Telescope and not marvel at the beauty of the cosmos? Astonished at the famous photo of the Sombrero Galaxy, one writer said, “How can we begin to fathom the knowledge, the power, the reasoning, the truths, and the purposes that went into the Sombrero Galaxy (which is just one among billions of others)? Here we are, so small and so isolated, a speck of the creation with so much in our view but so infinitely beyond our grasp.”

More astonishing than the universe itself, however, has to be its Maker, because only something greater than the universe could have made it.

Of course, as Seventh-day Adventists, the God whom we worship and serve is the One who, indeed, has made the universe—everything from the Sombrero Galaxy to the quarks that compose all matter in it and everywhere else.

It is in this context—that of the Lord whom we worship and serve—that this quarter’s lesson is going to do some “theology,” a technical term for “the study of God.” After all, is it not important to know about the God whom we worship, trust, and serve—the One we are called to love with “all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind” (*Luke 10:27*)?

The picture of God in the Bible is very expansive. Yes, God’s love is underscored, again and again, but there is so much more about Him that He wants us to know. For example, there are hundreds of different names for God in Scripture. Each one

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of them could give a deeper and more informed understanding of the great God of heaven and earth. He is so much more than a benign Santa Claus in the sky who doles out assistance at our request. (A professional poker player recently won millions of dollars in a tournament and then publicly thanked Jesus for it!)

This quarter we're going to look at God, at various aspects of Him as they have been revealed to us, and at what these things mean for us on a practical level. We're going to start with some of the "basics," such as the Trinity—the amazing teaching that God is One God and yet composed of Three Persons. From there, we're going to focus on God as Creator—the doctrine that forms the foundation of all that we believe. Next, we'll look at His work of redemption because, in a fallen world, being created isn't enough. We need to be redeemed, as well. We'll also look at God as both a God of grace and a God of judgment. We'll then look at His holiness, His law, and the Sabbath, all of which stem from the essence of His character and help us to understand more about what He is like.

*This quarter we're going to look at God, at various aspects of Him as they have been revealed to us, and at what these things mean for us on a practical level.*

And we also are going to look at some other aspects of God not commonly considered, such as God as a God of beauty, of history, and even of romance. Among other things, such as prayer and ecology (that is, we want to look at some of the practical aspects of what it means to serve our Lord), we're going to look at God's great promise of the Second Coming, which leads to the climax of history and the end of humanity's horrible experience with sin.

God is big (after all, He created—along with everything else—the Sombrero Galaxy!). We are so small in contrast. How grateful we should be, then, for every bit of light He casts our way. This quarter we'll look at some of that light. How faithfully we walk in it, is up to each of us individually.

*Jo Ann Davidson is a professor of theology at Andrews University Seminary in Berrien Springs, Michigan, U.S.A.*

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# Got Questions?

## Sabbath School University *has answers!*

*Sabbath School University* is a 28-minute discussion of the *Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide*. SSU discusses the content and strategies to enrich your Sabbath School with fellowship, outreach, Bible study, and missions. Sabbath School leaders, don't miss this weekly broadcast on Hope Channel.



[www.hopetv.org](http://www.hopetv.org)

# Mission to the Chinese

Mandarin Chinese is the most widely spoken language in the world. Well over a billion people speak Mandarin, Cantonese, or one of several other languages and dialects that originated in China. Millions of Chinese-speaking people live throughout Asia, North America, and dozens of other countries around the world. In North America Chinese is the third most widely spoken language.

Yet until recently, few video programs have been produced in one of the Chinese languages. The church is striving to make God's message available to Chinese-speaking populations wherever they live through avenues such as the Internet and Hope Channel. I'm glad that this quarter part of my Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help make more programming available to the Chinese-speaking people around the world. For me, it's personal.



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