# Contents

**Biblical Missionaries**

1. The Missionary Nature of God — June 27–July 3 ........................................ 4
2. Abraham: The First Missionary — July 4–10 ............................................. 11
3. The Unexpected Missionary — July 11–17 ............................................. 18
4. The Jonah Story — July 18–24 ................................................................. 25
5. Exiles as Missionaries — July 25–31 ......................................................... 32
6. Esther and Mordecai — August 1–7 ......................................................... 39
7. Jesus: The Master of Missions — August 8–14 ......................................... 46
8. Cross-Cultural Missions — August 15–21 ............................................... 53
9. Peter and the Gentiles (Non-Jews) — August 22–28 ................................. 60
10. Philip as Missionary — August 29–September 4 ...................................... 67
11. Paul: Background and Call — September 5–11 ....................................... 74
12. Paul: Mission and Message — September 12–18 ..................................... 81

---

**Editorial Office:** 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904-6600  
Come visit us at our Web site: [http://www.absg.adventist.org](http://www.absg.adventist.org)

**Printing and Circulation Office:** Pacific Press® Publishing Association, 1350 N. Kings Road, Nampa, ID 83687-3193

**Principal Contributor** .............................................................................. Børge Schantz
**Co-contributor** ......................................................................................... Steven Thompson
**Editor** ........................................................................................................ Soraya Homayouni
**Contributing Editors** ................................................................................ George Belser, Esther Doss
**Publication Manager** ............................................................................... Lea Alexander Greve
**Editorial Assistant** ................................................................................... Sharon Thomas-Crews
**Art and Design** .......................................................................................... Lars Justinen
**Line Drawings** ........................................................................................... Jon Gilbertson
**Pacific Press® Coordinator** ........................................................................ Wendy Marcum
**E. G. White Estate Consultant** ..................................................................... Ivan Leigh Warden

The *Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide* is prepared by the Office of the Adult Bible Study Guide of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists®. The preparation of the guides is under the general direction of a worldwide Sabbath School Manuscript Evaluation Committee, the members of which serve as consulting editors. The published Bible study guide reflects the input of the committee and thus does not solely or necessarily represent the intent of the author(s). The Easy Reading Edition is prepared by the Office of the Adult Bible Study Guide in cooperation with Three Angels Deaf Ministries, P.O. Box 1946, Greenbelt, MD 20768; [http://www.deafadventist.org](http://www.deafadventist.org).

© 2015 General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists®. All rights reserved. No part of the *Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide* Easy Reading Edition may be edited, altered, modified, adapted, translated, reproduced, or published by any person or entity without prior written authorization from the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists®. The division offices of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists® are authorized to arrange for translation of the *Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide* Easy Reading Edition, under specific guidelines. Copyright of such translations and their publication shall remain with the General Conference. “Seventh-day Adventist,” “Adventist,” and the flame logo are registered trademarks of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists® and may not be used without prior authorization from the General Conference.
Then Jesus came to them. He said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. So you must go and make disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And you can be sure that I am always with you, to the very end’ ” (Matthew 28:18–20, NIrV).

How much clearer could it be? Here is Jesus—the risen Jesus, the Jesus whom they worshiped (verse 17). He has been giving His people throughout church history their calling and mission. Their most important duty is to make disciples in every nation of the world. Period.

It is not hard to understand the connection between these words, spoken to the eleven disciples in Galilee, and the words spoken to John on the island of Patmos many years later: “I saw another angel. He was flying high in the air. He came to tell everyone on earth the good news that will always be true. He told it to every nation, tribe, language and people. In a loud voice he said, 'Have respect for God. Give him glory [praise and honor]. The hour has come for God to judge. Worship him who made the heavens and the earth. Worship him who made the sea and the springs of water’ ”(Revelation 14:6, 7, NIrV; read also verses 8–12).

A person could say that the three angels’ messages of Revelation 14 are also the Great Commission (command) in Matthew 28:18–20. This command is to be applied to our understanding of the last days of earth’s history.

No question: God has told His church, His people, to reach out and spread the gospel to the entire world. It is what Jesus has been calling us to do. Our mission is to spread (1) the truth about Jesus and what He has done for us (John 3:16), (2) what He is doing now for us (Romans 8:34), and (3) what He will do for us in the future (1 Thessalonians 4:16).
The word *mission* itself means “a sending or being sent to do a service.” For example, people go away in order to do something. So, the Great Commission means that what people do is to spread the gospel to the world.

This quarter we will study mission as God’s way for communicating the gospel to people who do not know it. Mission is a basic, but important, part of God’s heavenly work in saving souls. So, we will study how God’s eternal purpose has been fulfilled in the lives of people in the Bible. They are the people God has sent as missionaries to the lost.

In the end, the Christian mission is God’s mission, not ours. It started in the heart of God. It is based on the love of God. And it is done by the will of God.

To better understand God’s mission work, this quarter’s lessons are based on the following model of salvation history:

1. God created men and women and gave them free will.
2. The first man and woman misused their free will by disobeying God, and they had to leave Eden.
3. God could not use force to bring them back to Eden.
4. God sent His Son on a mission to die in their place and to bring them back into harmony or a good relationship with Him.
5. God’s mission is to make the offer of salvation known to all people. This goal opens the way for them to have salvation.

At its most basic level, mission is letting the whole world know about Jesus. It also is about what He has done for each of us and about what He promises to do for us, now and for eternity. In short, we who know about those promises have been called to tell others about them too.

*Børge Schantz, PhD (Fuller Theological Seminary), was a professor at Loma Linda University. He and his wife, Iris, served for 14 years as missionaries in Africa and the Middle East. He passed away in December 2014. Co-contributor Steven Wayne Thompson, before retiring, was president (1984–1990) at Newbold College in England, and then dean of theology faculty and a lecturer at Avondale College, Australia (1991–2008).*

*The three angels’ messages of Revelation 14 are God’s Great Command in Matthew 28:18–20 to spread the gospel to the world.*