

Contents

1	Crisis in Heaven — <i>December 26–January 1</i> —————	6
2	Crisis in Eden — <i>January 2–8</i> —————	14
3	Global Rebellion and the Patriarchs — <i>January 9–15</i> —————	22
4	Conflict and Crisis: The Judges — <i>January 16–22</i> —————	30
5	The Controversy Continues — <i>January 23–29</i> —————	38
6	Victory in the Wilderness — <i>January 30–February 5</i> —————	46
7	Jesus’ Teachings and the Great Controversy — <i>February 6–12</i> —	56
8	Comrades in Arms — <i>February 13–19</i> —————	64
9	The Great Controversy and the Early Church — <i>February 20–26</i> —	72
10	Paul and the Rebellion — <i>February 27–March 4</i> —————	80
11	Peter on the Great Controversy — <i>March 5–11</i> —————	88
12	The Church Militant — <i>March 12–18</i> —————	96
13	Redemption — <i>March 19–25</i> —————	104

Editorial Office 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904
Come visit us at our Web site: <http://www.absg.adventist.org>

Principal Contributor
David Tasker

Editor
Clifford R. Goldstein

Associate Editor
Soraya Homayouni

Publication Manager
Lea Alexander Greve

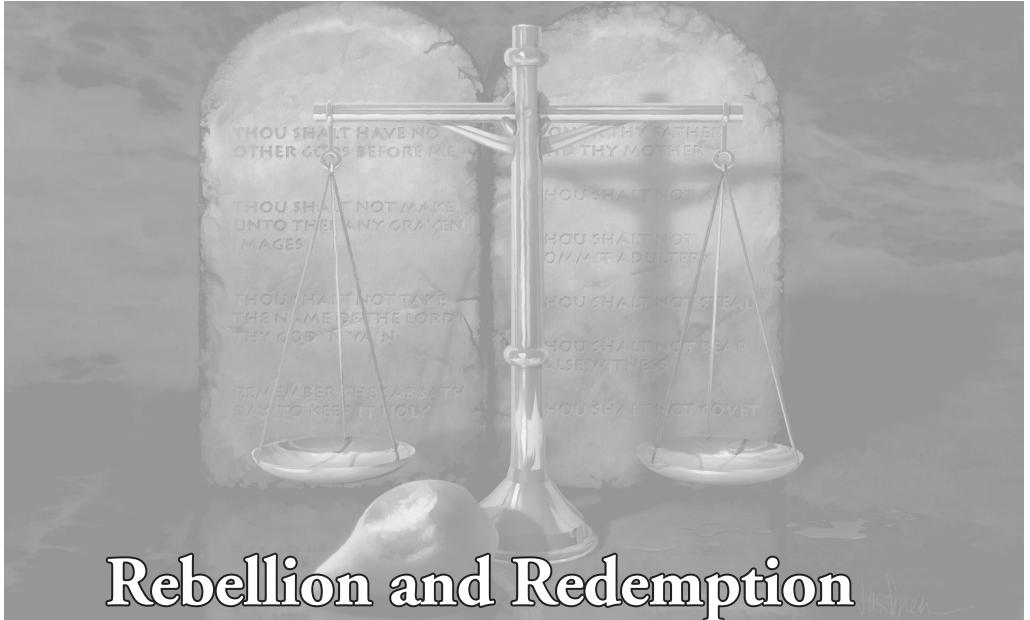
Editorial Assistant
Sharon Thomas-Crews

Pacific Press® Coordinator
Wendy Marcum

Art Director and Illustrator
Lars Justinen

Design
Justinen Creative Group

©2016 General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists®. All rights reserved. No part of the *Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide* 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*, 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.



Rebellion and Redemption

Somehow, and we don't know exactly why, sin arose in God's perfect creation, and that sin became the starting point for what we understand as the great controversy. One thing, though, we do know, and very well too: as human beings, we are caught in the middle of this controversy. It's a battle that none of us escape.

It wasn't, though, supposed to be that way, not in the beginning. Creation was "very good" and "blessed" by God. Although the Lord was recognized as the Sustainer of this perfect creation, He gave Adam and Eve the responsibility of taking care of what He had made for them. The great controversy came to earth when Satan deceived Adam and Eve with flattery and deception, diverting their allegiance from God to himself. Had they remained faithful to what God had told them, had they obeyed His simple commands, the world as we know it, with all its miseries, trials, and suffering, never would have arisen.

"Satan's efforts to misrepresent the character of God, to cause men to cherish a false conception of the Creator, and thus to regard Him with fear and hate rather than with love; his endeavors to set aside the divine law, leading the people to think themselves free from its requirements; and his persecution of those who dare to resist his deceptions, have been steadfastly pursued in all ages. They may be traced in the history of patriarchs, prophets, and apostles, of martyrs and reformers."—Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, pp. 12, 13.

In response to this tragedy, God, who had foreseen all this happening “before the foundation of the world” (*Eph. 1:4*), put in place His rescue plan. It’s what we know as the plan of Redemption. This Redemption is prefigured in the account of God meeting with Abram in Genesis 15, when He passed between the animal pieces. The ancient ceremony was an assurance to Abram and, thus, to all of us that God is personally involved in providing a solution to the problem caused by sin.

Yes, God has pledged to bear in Himself the full responsibility for all human rebellion and to suffer the consequences for every evil we have committed. Only in this way could God restore His relationship with the human race, relationships between humans, and humanity’s relationship with the rest of creation.

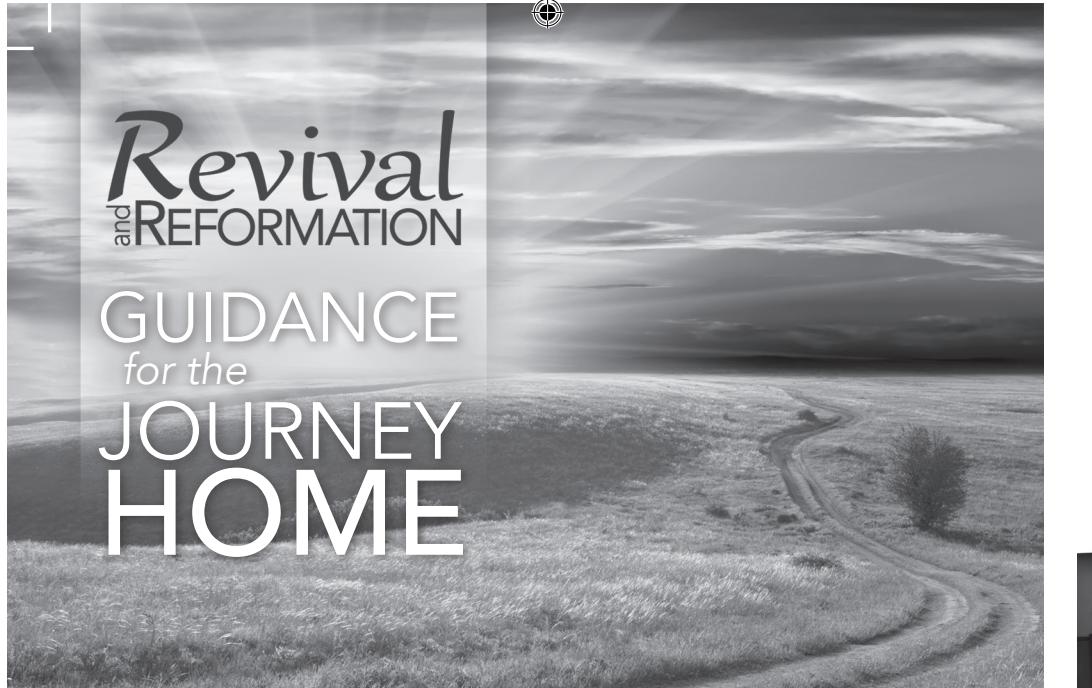
It is in this overarching context that we see Satan’s insatiable passion to deface creation and to obliterate God’s people. His strategies are revealed in the Bible, where good and evil are played out between siblings, in families, and in besieged nations. It is seen in times of oppression, famine, slavery, and exile; in frustrated attempts to rebuild after disaster; in divided loyalties and the enticement of idolatrous practices.

Throughout Scripture, God is constantly defeating Satan’s purposes. Jesus’ coming as Immanuel, “God with us,” recovered the territory stolen from Adam and Eve. Jesus succeeded where Adam failed. In His ministry, Jesus showed His authority over creation and the forces of evil. Just before His return to heaven, Jesus recommissioned His followers and at Pentecost empowered them to extend the borders of His heavenly kingdom.

Jesus has won the decisive victory at the cross. The challenge has always been where we place our loyalties: on the side that has won or on the side that has lost. Though the choice should be easy and obvious, because the controversy still rages and the deceptions are ever-present, the battle for our hearts and minds continues. Our hope and prayer, then, is that this quarter’s lessons will reveal some of these deceptions and thus help us not just to choose Christ but to remain with Him because, as He has promised, “He who endures to the end shall be saved” (*Matt. 24:13, NKJV*).

David Tasker, field secretary of the South Pacific Division, has a PhD in Old Testament and has been a church pastor in his native New Zealand, mission president in the Solomon Islands, and lecturer in Biblical Studies at Pacific Adventist University (Papua New Guinea) and at Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies (Philippines). He and his wife, Carol, have two married sons (Nathan and Stephen) and three grandchildren.

God has pledged to bear in Himself the full responsibility for all human rebellion and to suffer the consequences for every evil we have committed.



Revival and REFORMATION

GUIDANCE for the JOURNEY HOME

Take your connection with God to a higher level!

Believe His Prophets is a five-year program through the Bible and selected writings of Ellen White. Receive daily Bible readings, interactive blogs, and select inspirational writings.

United in Prayer is a commitment to pray together with others using traditional or creative methods. Receive weekly requests, testimonies, or prayer ideas from the world church.

Sign up for both at www.RevivalandReformation.org and share your ideas and testimonies.

GLOBAL STUDY PROGRAM

Believe *His* Prophets

Every day in God's Word
and the Spirit of Prophecy

GLOBAL PRAYER CIRCLE

UNITEDⁱⁿ PRAYER

Every day in Prayer
with God's People

SEEK TO RESTORE... THIS IS TRUE MINISTRY*



An Adventist contractor in Paraguay renovating an old building into a new center of influence, a young nurse ministering to the people of the Amazon, a pastor in Uruguay planting churches through the power of the radio—all seeking to restore the image of God in human beings.

Won't you join them this quarter by supporting the Thirteenth Sabbath mission projects in the South American Division?

Read these stories and more in this quarter's Inside Stories or in the *Mission* quarterly on our website. Please plan to give liberally on March 26 or anytime at: giving.adventistmission.org.

* *Medical Ministry*, p. 240.

**MADVENTIST
MISSION**
WWW.ADVENTISTMISSION.ORG