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Lessons 1-26

**Coordinated with
*The Great Controversy***

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Profiles of Faith

Coordinated with *The Great Controversy*

by Ansel L. Bristol

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What's Ahead?—A Forecast

A new section of a super highway opened near Frank's home. He decided to travel this wide smooth roadway. He was enjoying the drive when a bright yellow sign appeared overhead reading, "End of Freeway."

Suddenly there was a huge rumbling noise and vibration as if some giant force was shaking the car like a baby's rattle. "What could have happened," thought Frank. Then he noticed wide gashes in the new roadway every few inches.

Why mar this new road? Drivers needed to realize the warning sign was for real. Danger loomed ahead. They were at the end of the road. They must slow down and exit now before it was too late.

How did we get our spiritual guidebook, the Bible, which tells which way to go and warns us of the approaching end? How does inspiration operate? Can we trust the Bible as it tells us the confusion and troubles of today are saying, "Wake up; it's here; the end of our world is at hand"?

Let's find the Bible answer to these questions.

BIBLE INSIGHTS

This seminar focuses on Jesus in the past, present, and future, drawing from the Bible and history lessons to guide us today. There are correlated readings from *The Great Controversy* which many claim is the most thorough, inspiring, and yet clear explanation of the past history and future of the Christian era.

How We Got Our Bible

1. What two names did Jesus apply to the sacred writings we call the Bible?

Matthew 21:42 _____ **Luke 8:21** _____

"Bible" does not appear in the text. It is from the Greek *biblia* meaning "little books." There are 66 books written by 35-40 people over a period of 1500 to 1600 years.

2. Who directed the Bible writers in recording the messages given to them? **2 Peter 1:21**

3. Who is speaking through these Bible writers? **Hebrews 1:1** _____

What are these writers called? _____

4. The Holy Spirit communicates through six patterns.

- a. **Isaiah 6:1, 8**: He speaks to the prophet through visions and dreams.
- b. **1 John 1:1-3**: He inspires the prophet to tell what was seen and heard.
- c. **Luke 1:1-3**: He guides the prophet's use of historical and eyewitness accounts to bring God's message.
- d. **1 Corinthians 7:10, 25, 40**: He inspires the prophet to give His counsel.
- e. **1 Corinthians 2:1-13**: Prophetic proclamation (counsel) is guided by Him.
- f. **Psalms**: The prophet is inspired to express feelings and emotions in poetry.

How Inspiration Operates

To better understand how inspiration works, please read *The Great Controversy*, Introduction, pp. v-xiii (vii-xiii). **Bold** page numbers are for both the Standard edition and the bottom centered numbers in some paperbacks. Bible Reference Library edition page numbers are in parentheses.

1. Whom does the Bible point out as its author? p. v (vii) _____
2. What were given by "inspiration of God"? p. v (vii) _____
How were these expressed? _____
3. What do the God-given Bible truths combine? p. vi (vii, viii) _____

4. Why do book styles and characteristics vary? p. vi (vii) _____

5. Why are the same truths often more strikingly presented by one Bible writer? p. vi (viii) _____

6. Instead of discrepancy, what will reverent and thoughtful students see? p. vi (viii) _____

7. Who qualified and enabled the Bible writers? p. vi (viii) _____
How did they know what to say and write? _____
How was their testimony conveyed? _____

You Can Trust the Bible

1. What claim about its origin do the Holy Scriptures make? **2 Timothy 3:16** _____

2. Why does the Bible mention coming things? **John 14:29** _____

A Bifocal Look Into the Future

Please read **Matthew 24:1-51**. **Verses 4-20** apply to Jerusalem's destruction and the world's end. **Verses 21-26** mainly describe events from Jerusalem's destruction to the end. **Verses 27-51** describe events before Christ's return, how He comes, and rewards.

1. As the disciples showed Jesus the temple building, what did Jesus say? **Matthew 24:2** _____

2. What two events did His disciples associate with the temple destruction? **Matthew 24:3** _____

3. Name some events which took place from A.D. 31-70 that signaled the approaching doom of Jerusalem. _____

4. What does "the abomination of desolation" (Matthew 24: 15) mean? *The Great Controversy*, pp. 25, 26 (8)

5. When Christians saw this, what were they to do? **Matthew 24:16** _____
6. Why were His disciples not to worry about wars and rumors of wars? **Matthew 24:6** _____
7. **Matthew 24:9, 10** forecast persecution. List some Christian church leaders who suffered. **Acts 4:3-7, 13; 7:59, 60; 12:1-4** _____
8. As wickedness would increase, what would happen? **Matthew 24:12, 13** _____
Who would be saved? _____
9. What is to be preached and where before Christ returns? **Matthew 24:14** _____
10. Before the destruction of Jerusalem, for what were believers to pray? **Matthew 24:20** _____

PERSPECTIVES

Josephus, the first-century Jewish historian, quotes Titus, Jerusalem's Roman conqueror: "God . . . brought down the Jews from these strong-holds; for what power have human hands or engines against these towers."—*War*, vi. 9. 1; cited in *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Students' Source Book*, p. 539.

ENRICHMENT READING

To learn more about Jesus in the past, present, and future, read these Bible passages and the parallel comments in *The Great Controversy*.

- **Revelation 2:1-7**—The Ephesus Church Period (A.D. 30-100) as God sees it.
- **Revelation 6:1, 2**—The First Seal (A.D. 30-100)—a secular view of religious history.
- **Revelation 6:3, 4**—The Second Seal (A.D. 100-313)—a secular view of religious history.
- *The Great Controversy*, chapters 1, 2, pp. 17-48 (1-28).

Bold page numbers are for both the Standard edition and the bottom centered numbers in some paperbacks. Bible Reference Library edition page numbers are in parentheses.

THINK IT THROUGH

After the ENRICHMENT READING in the Bible and *The Great Controversy*, answering these questions will enhance your understanding of this topic. **Bold** page numbers are for both the Standard edition and the bottom centered numbers in some paperbacks. Bible Reference Library pages are in parentheses.

“The Destruction of Jerusalem”—“The Love and Long-suffering of Christ”—A.D. 70.
The Great Controversy, Chapter 1, pp. 17-38 (1-20)

- A. What symbol did Christ see in Jerusalem? p. 22 (5) (Remember bold page numbers are for both the Standard edition and the bottom centered numbers in some paperbacks). _____
- B. Why was the future veiled from His disciples? p. 25 (8) _____
- C. How did the Jews reject God’s last offer of mercy? p. 28 (10) _____
- D. How many Christians perished in Jerusalem’s violent destruction? p. 30 (12) _____
- E. What may we see in the destruction of Jerusalem? p. 36 (18) _____
- F. What will happen to God’s people in the final destruction of the world? p. 37 (18) _____
- G. When will our judgement come? p. 38 (19) _____

INTERESTING COLLATERAL READING

To learn how history fulfills these Bible prophecies read:

- For Revelation 2:1-7—*God Cares, Vol. 2, pp. 89-100, 120, 121, 141-144. Daniel and the Revelation, pp. 361-368.*
- For Revelation 6:1, 2—*God Cares, Vol. 2, pp. 174-178, 210-212. Daniel and the Revelation, pp. 425, 426.*
- For Revelation 6:3, 4—*God Cares, Vol. 2, pp. 179-187. Daniel and the Revelation, pp. 426-428.*

For Your Information

This is number one of twenty-six study guides Profiles of Jesus, Past, Present, and Future from The Great Controversy available from your group instructor, or the General Conference Ministerial Association, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Springs, MD 20904-6600. Phone (301) 680-6500. For a sample study guide contact Discover His Word, phone (530) 676-2251.

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Darkness and Torches

As night came to San Diego, California, Diana and Cody decided to drive to a friend's house on a hill by the bay.

Diana suggested they try a shorter way. A few turns later, they were on top of a hill overlooking the bay, but the desired street was nowhere in sight.

"Turn left here," suggested Diana, "now make a right there, and our street is just over there a couple of blocks."

Going up, over, and around the hill several times and coming to the same spot, Cody said, "Let's look at the map."

They were in the right general area but on the wrong hill. Locating themselves on the map, they planned how to get to the friend's house. In a few minutes they found it.

Diana and Cody were sure they were right following what seemed correct. But how far they wandered from their goal because they did not consult the map!

Early Christian persecutions did not destroy the church. So Satan got most Christians to forsake God's map, the Bible, and do what seemed right with disastrous results!

BIBLE INSIGHTS

The Origin of Suffering and Persecution

1. What does the Christian's real adversary seek to do to them? **1 Peter 5:8** _____

2. With whom did sin—the cause of all trouble, persecution, pain and death—originate? **1 John 3:8** _____

3. Where was the devil's original home, and by what name was he known? **Isaiah 14:12** _____

4. How does Ezekiel describe Satan's original ways? **Ezekiel 28:15** _____

5. How did Lucifer's beauty affect him, and what happened to his wisdom? **Ezekiel 28:17** _____

6. What began because of Lucifer's rebellion? **Revelation 12:7, 8** _____
What happened? _____

7. Against what forces do God's children of all ages struggle? **Ephesians 6:12** _____
8. Why does Satan get people or groups to persecute the righteous? a. **1 John 3:12**
 b. **John 3:20** _____
 c. **John 16:2** _____
9. What values do trials have for Christians? **1 Peter 4:12, 13** _____
James 1:3, 4, 12 _____
10. What is the reward of the faithful who are persecuted for Christ's sake? **Matthew 5:10-12** _____

PERSPECTIVES

Rome's burning in A.D. 64 necessitated a scapegoat. Nero blamed the Christians and "pulled . . . away from . . . toleration. Peter and Paul no doubt met death at that time."—*A Short of Christianity*, p. 58.

Political and Religious Situation of Rome

- A.D. 410: Rome sacked by Alaric and the Visigoths.
- A.D. 455: Rome sacked by the Vandals.
- A.D. 590-604: Pope Gregory I controlled, insisting Europe's clergy and all eastern bishops be subject to him.

The Great Controversy (pp. **54, 55, 60** [33, 34, 39]) says the Bishop of Rome's accession of power begins the Dark Ages. From the eighth to the thirteenth centuries, kings and emperors bowed to his decrees; the Bible was almost unknown. Europe made little advancement in learning or civilization.

ENRICHMENT READING

To learn more about Jesus' past, present, and future read these Bible passages and *The Great Controversy* parallel comments.

- **Revelation 2:12-17**—The Pergamos Church history period (A.D. 313-538) as God sees it.
- **Revelation 2:18-29**—Thyatira Church history period (A.D. 528-1798) as God sees it.
- **Revelation 6:5, 6**—The Third Seal (A.D. 313-538)—a secular view of religious history.
- **Revelation 6:7, 8**—The Fourth Seal (A.D. 538-1517)—a secular view of religious history.
- **Revelation 8:6-13**—Trumpets 1 to 4 (A.D. 395-491)— military history, the fall of Western Rome.
- **Revelation 13:1-10; 12:6** (A.D. 538-1798)—God's picture of Roman oppression.
- **Revelation 12:1-17**—Religious intolerance.
- *The Great Controversy*, Chapter 2, pp. **39-48** (21-28), Chapter 3, pp. **49-60** (29-40), Chapter 4, pp. **61-78** (41-56).
Bold page numbers are for both the Standard edition and the bottom centered numbers in some paperbacks. Bible Reference Library edition page numbers are in parentheses.

THINK IT THROUGH

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"Persecution in the First Centuries" — "The First Christians—Loyal and True" — A. D. 60-300. *The Great Controversy*, Chapter 2, pp. **39-48** (21-28)

A. What did Christ also see as He looked over Jerusalem? p. **39** (21) (**Remember bold page numbers are for both the Standard edition and the bottom centered numbers in some paperbacks**). _____

B. What acts did society falsely accuse Christians of committing? p. **40** (22) _____

C. After thousands of Christians were jailed and slain, what happened? p. **42** (23) _____

D. When persecution failed, what did Satan substitute? p. **42** (23, 24) _____

E. What happened to most of the early Christians? p. **43** (24) _____

F. What did Satan inspire deceived Christians to do? p. **45** (26) _____

G. After a long and severe conflict, what did the faithful few do? p. **45** (26)

H. Why is there so little persecution of Christians today? p. **48** (28) _____

“An Era of Spiritual Darkness” — “Rejecting God’s Word” — A.D. 300-1233. The Great Controversy, chapter 3, pp. 49-60 (29-40)

A. What brought about the “man of sin” Paul predicted? _____
p. **50** (30) _____

B. Which commandment of God’s ten did this “man of sin” remove? pp. **51, 52** (31) _____
Which one did he divide? _____

C. What did Constantine issue early in the fourth century? p. **53** (32) _____

D. When the papacy became firmly established in the sixth century, what two periods begin? pp. **54, 55** (33, 34)

“The Waldenses”—“Defending the Faith in the Mountains”—A.D. 538-1300. The Great Controversy, chapter 4, pp. 61-78 (41-56)

A. What three Bible truths were cherished by some in every age? p. **61** (41) _____

B. Why are there so few traces of God's true people during the dark years from A.D. 600-1200? p. 61 (41)

C. What was the foundation of the Waldenses' faith? p. 64 (43)

D. Name one main cause of the true church's separation from Rome. p. 65 (44)

E. What did some true Waldenses in the dark ages deny and reject? p. 65 (44)

What did they keep?

F. As they did their disguised missionaries work, what were secretly carried? p. 71 (49)

G. What was the effect of these faithful Waldenses? p. 78 (55, 56)

INTERESTING COLLATERAL READING

To learn how history fulfills these Bible prophecies read:

- For Revelation 2:12-17—*God Cares, Vol. 2, pp. 103-106, 141-144. Daniel and the Revelation, pp. 372-376.*
- For Revelation 2:18-29—*God Cares, Vol. 2, pp. 106-109, 141-144. Daniel and the Revelation, pp. 376-381.*
- For Revelation 6:5, 6—*God Cares, Vol. 2, pp. 179-187, 210-212. Daniel and the Revelation, pp. 428-431.*
- For Revelation 6:7, 8—*God Cares, Vol. 2, pp. 179-187, 210-212. Daniel and the Revelation, pp. 431, 432.*
- For Revelation 8:6-13—*God Cares, Vol. 2, pp. 223-242. Daniel and the Revelation, pp. 475-491.*
- For Revelation 12:1-17—*God Cares, Vol. 2, pp. 309-324. Daniel and the Revelation, pp. 549-559.*
- For Revelation 13:1-10—*God Cares, Vol. 2, pp. 324-340. Daniel and the Revelation, pp. 561-571.*

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The Way to Heaven

Thirty stories above a street in New York City ironworkers toiled, constructing a new office building.

One of these workers slipped and desperately grabbed for something to keep from falling. But the worker missed and plummeted toward the street.

At the street level, directly below the falling worker, an electrician was installing cable for this new building. There was a sickening thud as the falling body landed on the electrician.

Rescuers were amazed to find the fallen ironworker alive, but the street-level electrician was dead. He had broken the fall of the ironworker, but in so doing had died.

Once a man and a woman fell from a sinless existence in a perfect world into the darkness of sin. Jesus spared their lives by giving His life on the cross to save them and us.

Which is our way to escape eternal death and go to heaven—acts of penance, surrender of allegiance to a church, or faith in Christ? Let's find God's answers in our Bibles.

BIBLE INSIGHTS

How to Get to Heaven

1. Is every person a sinner? **Romans 3:23** _____

How does the Bible define sin? **1 John 3:4** _____

In other words, a sinner is one who breaks God's law. If we deny being a sinner, who is deceived and what is lacking? **1 John 1:8** _____

2. How can one get rid of past sins and the guilt they cause? _____

a. What must we first do, and what will God then do? **1 John 1:9** _____

b. If we accept forgiveness by faith, what will God do with even the stains sin leaves in a person's mind?

Isaiah 1:18 _____

3. How is it possible to overcome sin's power and be obedient?

a. Ask God for what two new things? **Ezekiel 36:26** _____

b. What will God's Spirit enable one to do? **Ezekiel 36:27** _____

God diagnoses our disease as sinfulness. His remedy is the saving power of Christ which we must accept. This is the way to heaven—not penance, prayers, or good works. The power and guidance of the Holy Spirit bridges the gulf between knowing the gospel and living it.

4. Name some of the works of the Holy Spirit.

a. **2 Peter 1:21** _____

b. **John 16:8** _____

c. **John 3:3-8** _____

d. **John 16:13** _____

e. **Acts 1:8** _____

5. What does the Spirit do for our inner person? **Ephesians 3:16, 17** _____

What does this make possible? _____

6. What must we do to receive the Holy Spirit? **Luke 11:13** _____

The New Testament reveals a pattern of receiving the Spirit like humans falling in love. Love develops by mutual attraction (Luke 19:10), drawing nearer (James 4:8), self-surrender (Acts 2:1), and trust causing continued adjustment (Acts 15:28).

7. How will I know when I have received the Spirit? **Galatians 5:22-25** _____

“When the Spirit of God takes possession of the heart, it transforms the life. Sinful thoughts are put away, evil deeds are renounced; love, humility, and peace take the place of anger, envy, and strife. Joy takes the place of sadness, and the countenance reflects the light of heaven.” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 173 (137, 138).

PERSPECTIVES

“Three mighty currents were running through the life of Prague. The first, a moral movement, involved the moral improvement and efficiency of the clergy; the second, a movement of doctrinal reform, centering in the views of Wycliffe; the third, a patriotic movement.... In all three... Huss was the acknowledged leader.”—*John Huss, His Life, Teaching, and Death*, p. 58.

“It is doubtful, if we except the sufferings and death of Jesus Christ, whether the forward movement of religious enlightenment and human freedom have been advanced as much by the sufferings and death of any single man as by the death of Huss.”—David S. Schaff, *John Huss, His Life, Teachings, and Death*, p. 2.

Of Jerome, Poggio Bracciolini, papal representative at the Council of Constance said, “Thus perished a man eminent beyond belief.... Socrates did not drink poison as willingly as this man submitted to the flames.”—Will S. Monroe, *Bohemia and the Czecks*. pp. 227-229

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- **Revelation 9:1-11**—The Fifth Trumpet (A.D. July 27, 1299-July 27, 1449)—Military history focused on Eastern Rome; the rise and progress of the Arabs.
- **Revelation 9:13-21**—The Sixth Trumpet (A.D. July 28, 1449-August 11, 1840)—Military history focused on Eastern Rome; the decline of the Ottoman Empire.
- **Revelation 13:1-10; 12:6**—God’s picture of Roman oppression (A.D. 538-1798)
- **Revelation 12:1-17**—Religious intolerance exposed.
- *The Great Controversy*, chapters 5, 6, pp. 79-119 (57-92). **Bold** page numbers are for both the Standard edition and the bottom centered numbers in some paperbacks. Bible Reference Library edition page numbers are in parentheses.

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“John Wycliffe”—“The Light Breaks in England”—A.D. 1300-1418. The Great Controversy, chapter 5, pp. 79-96 (57-71)

- A. What did Wycliffe—the “Morning Star” of the Reformation—find in the Bible? p. **80** (57) (**Remember bold page numbers** are for both the Standard edition and the bottom centered numbers in some paperbacks). _____
- B. What was the real purpose of the tracts Wycliffe published against the “friars”? p. **84** (61) _____
- C. While he was a professor at Oxford, what did he say he intended to do? p. **87** (64) _____
- D. Where did Wycliffe’s Bible find its way? pp. **88, 89** (65) _____
- E. Who had appointed him his work, and why was his life prolonged? pp. **92, 93** (69) _____
- F. What did Wycliffe consider was the Bible’s origin? For what is it sufficient? Who is its interpreter? p. **93** (69, 70) _____

“Huss and Jerome”—Two Heroes Face Death—A. D. 1300-1600. The Great Controversy, Chapter 6, pp. 97-119 (72-92)

- A. Where was Huss educated, and what was he later made? pp. **98, 99** (73) _____
- B. When Jerome brought some of the writings of Wycliffe to Prague, who read them? p. **99** (75) _____
- C. Who now united with Huss in the work of reform? pp. **102, 103** (77) _____
What was the result? _____
- D. Why did not all the light of truth come at once in the Reformation? p. **103** (77, 78) _____
- E. After a long imprisonment and enfeebled by illness, what did Huss choose instead of recantation? p. **107** (81) _____
- F. What did Huss do as the flames were kindled about him on July 6, 1415? p. **109** (83) _____

G. What did the council later force Jerome to do? p. 111 (84, 85) _____

H. Lacking peace, what did he renounce, and request? p. 112 (84, 85) _____

I. Soon after Jerome was condemned, what happened on May 30, 1416, at the same spot where Huss died? pp. 114, 115 (88) _____

J. How did the papal leaders finally suppress the Bohemians? p. 118 (90) _____

INTERESTING COLLATERAL READING

To learn how history fulfills these Bible prophecies read:

- For Revelation 2:18-29—*God Cares, Vol. 2*, pp. 122-126, 141-144. *Daniel and the Revelation*, pp. 376-381.
- For Revelation 6:7, 8—*God Cares, Vol. 2*, pp. 180-187, 141-144. *Daniel and the Revelation*, pp. 431-432.
- For Revelation 9:1-11—*God Cares, Vol. 2*, pp. 242-250, 262-265. *Daniel and the Revelation*, pp. 493-505.
- For Revelation 9:13-21—*God Cares, Vol. 2*, pp. 251-265. *Daniel and the Revelation*, pp. 505-517.
- For Revelation 12:1-17—*God Cares, Vol. 2*, pp. 309-314, 319-324. *Daniel and the Revelation*, pp. 549-559.
- For Revelation 13:1-10; 12:6—*God Cares, Vol. 2*, pp. 324-330. *Daniel and the Revelation*, pp. 561-571.

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By Faith Alone

An eastern United States printer puts its impressive trademark, a circle with the company's name and the words "I never disappoint," on every job package. How similar to the trademark God places on every promise in His Word!

Notice how God's promise to never leave or forsake His followers was fulfilled to the reformer, Martin Luther.

The night before Luther was to present his final answer to the Emperor Charles V and the assembled princes of Germany at the Diet of Worms, he became discouraged. "For a time his heart sank. . . . His faith faltered; fearfulness and trembling came upon him, and horror overwhelmed him. . . . It was not the fear of personal suffering, a dread of torture or death. . . ., that overwhelmed him with its terror. He had come to the crisis, and he felt his insufficiency to meet it. . . . In his utter helplessness his faith fastened upon Christ. . . . He was strengthened with the assurance that he would not appear alone before the council."—*The Great Controversy*, pp. 156, 157 (125, 126).

God did not disappoint his faithful witness, and He will not disappoint us if we place our faith in Christ and by faith follow only what the Bible teaches. Let's notice how these were the keys in the life of Luther.

BIBLE INSIGHTS

There Is Hope

We are sinners because we have done many wrong things. But there is hope, our unjust acts can be justified, and we can be free from the guilt these evil acts bring.

1. By what means are we justified and given hope? **Titus 3:7** _____

2. How can we experience this justification? **Romans 3:28** _____

3. When Abraham "believed in the Lord," how did God count it? **Genesis 15:6** _____

4. What must we do to have Abraham's experience? **Romans 4:5** _____

5. Can we be justified partly by good works and partly by faith? **Romans 11:6** _____

6. How are both Jews and Gentiles justified? **Romans 3:29, 30** _____

7. When Abraham believed God's staggering promises, what was accounted to him? **Romans 4:20-22** _____

8. How can we have righteousness accounted or imputed to us? **Romans 4:23, 24** _____
9. When we accept Christ as our justification by faith, what comes to us? **Romans 5:1** _____
10. How does justification by faith affect God's law? **Romans 3:31** _____
11. What is the law's function? **Romans 3:20** _____
12. Dare we ignore God's law and go on sinning so we may remain in grace or grow? **Romans 6:1, 2** _____
13. How does James tell us to identify living faith? **James 2:26** _____
14. What exchange did Christ accomplish for us? **2 Corinthians 5:21** _____

PERSPECTIVES

"By posting his ninety-five theses against indulgences on the Wittenberg church door, he [Luther] made his rupture with the papacy inevitable, and his determination to answer the summons to appear at the Diet of Worms to defend his position before the emperor made him a national hero. His translation of the Bible into the German language ranks him among the masters of German prose. The doctrine of justification by faith, made popular by him, became the battle cry of the Reformation."—*Heroes of the Reformation*, p. 297.

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- **Revelation 9:1-11**—The Fifth Trumpet (A.D. July 27, 1299-July 27, 1449)—Military history focused on Eastern Rome; the rise and progress of the Arabs.
- **Revelation 9:13-21**—The Sixth Trumpet (A. D. July 28, 1449-August 11, 1840)—Military history focused on Eastern Rome; the decline of the Ottoman Empire.
- *The Great Controversy*, chapters 7, 8, pp. **120-170** (93-138). **Bold** page numbers are for both the Standard edition and the bottom centered numbers in some paperbacks. Bible Reference Library edition page numbers are in parentheses.

THINK IT THROUGH

After the ENRICHMENT READING in the Bible and *The Great Controversy*, answering these questions will enhance your understanding of this topic. **Bold** page numbers are for both the Standard edition and the bottom centered numbers in some paperbacks. Bible Reference Library edition page numbers are in parentheses.

“Luther’s Separation From Rome”—“A Man for His Time”—A.D. 1483-1521. The Great Controversy, Chapter 7, pp. 120-144 (93-114)

- A. Where did Luther first see a whole Bible and what did he say? p. 122 (95) _____

- B. Because he saw himself a sinner, what did he try to do? Whom did God raise up to help him? What did he tell him? pp. 123, 124 (96) _____

- C. After becoming a priest and a professor at Wittenberg, where did God lead him? What did he see everywhere? pp. 124, 125 (96, 97) _____

- D. Ascending Pilate’s so-called staircase, what words did he hear, and what did he do? p. 125 (97) _____

- E. To raise funds to build St. Peter’s Cathedral at Rome, who was sent to Germany, and what was his system? pp. 127, 128 (99) _____

- F. What filled Luther with horror, and why did he refuse absolution to some? pp. 128, 129 (99, 100) _____

- G. When Luther post the 95 theses (propositions against indulgences he was willing to defend) on the church door on Oct. 31, 1517, what happened within a few days? With what was he charged? pp. 129-135 (100-105) _____

- H. At Luther’s Augsburg trial when they saw his reasoning was unanswerable, what was he told? How did Luther react? pp. 136, 137 (106, 107) _____

- I. What did the pope’s decree of June 15, 1520 against Luther and his followers provide? p. 141 (111) _____

- J In the presence of a crowd of students, citizens, and doctors, what did Luther do with the pope’s bull, canon law, and similar items? p. 142 (112) _____

“Luther Before the Diet”—“A Champion of Truth”—A. D. 1521. The Great Controversy, Chapter 8, pp. 145-170 (115-138)

- A. When asked by the council to retract his teachings, what did Luther reply? pp. 155, 156 (125) _____

- B. Why did God lead the council to ask him to repeat his reply in Latin? p. 159 (128) _____

- C. What was his seven-word reply when again asked, “Will you, or will you not retract?” p. 160 (128) _____

- D. How did Luther’s testimony affect the council? p. 161 (129, 130) _____

- E. Why is it not safe to cling to old traditions, refusing new light? p. 164 (131, 132) _____

- F. Shortly after Luther left Worms, what did Rome prevail upon the emperor to issue? pp. 167, 168 (135) _____

- G. How did God deliver Luther? p. 168 (136) _____

- H. What did Luther do during these ten months? p. 168 (136) _____

- I. Why was this period of friendly captivity permitted? pp. 169, 170 (136, 137) _____

INTERESTING COLLATERAL READING

To learn how history fulfills these Bible prophecies read:

- For Revelation 2:18-29—*God Cares, Vol. 2*, pp. 122-126, 141-144. *Daniel and the Revelation*, pp. 376-381.
- For Revelation 6:7, 8—*God Cares, Vol. 2*, pp. 180-187, 141-144. *Daniel and the Revelation*, pp. 431-432.
- For Revelation 9:13-21—*God Cares, Vol. 2*, pp. 251-265. *Daniel and the Revelation*, pp. 505-517.

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What A Difference

A group of visitors and their guide were deep inside a cave when all the lights went out. The blackness was so intense it seemed it could be felt.

Each of the nearly fifty people in the group felt isolated and alone because of the overpowering darkness.

The guide struck a small cardboard match, and instantly you could see the walls of the cavern, the large open area where they stood, and the faces of the group.

"All this," you say, "from one small match?" Yes, because of the great blackness. That small light was the source of comfort, hope, and guidance.

During the intense spiritual darkness of the "Dark Ages," people seemed almost alone and hopeless. Many could not conscientiously follow the dictates of the established church ruling through the civil power. When the Bible was given to the people in their language, it became the light that brought comfort, hope and guidance.

Let's look at the Bible, the Christian, and the state and see how this Book influenced Germany when it was made available in the language of the people about the year 1521.

BIBLE INSIGHTS

The Bible, the Christian, and the State

Because of his beliefs, Luther came into conflict with the state. The Bible teaches how this problem should be solved.

1. What two powers are Christians to serve? **1 Peter 2:17** _____

2. What is one way to honor earthly powers? **Romans 13:7** _____

3. Beside honor, what should Christians also do for earthly rulers? **1 Timothy 2:1, 2** _____

4. In whose name did the Jewish officials command the disciples not to speak or teach? **Acts 4:18** _____

5. How did Peter and John reply? **Acts 4:20** _____

6. Because they feared God and obeyed His command to witness, what happened? **Acts 5:17, 18** _____

7. How did God reward His faithful witnesses? **Acts 5:19, 20** _____

8. When tried for their obedience to God in violation of human commands, what principle did the apostles state? **Acts 5:29** _____
9. Where do we get knowledge of how we should believe and act? **2 Timothy 3:16** _____
10. How complete is this instruction? **2 Timothy 3:17** _____
11. What will happen to civil liberties in the last days? **Revelation 13:16, 17** _____
- How will the state attempt to control worship? **Revelation 13:15** _____
12. Who is the ultimate higher official who notices when the poor are oppressed and civil or religious justice is perverted? **Ecclesiastes 5:8** _____
13. When Christians are persecuted, what should be their attitude? **James 5:7, 8** _____

PERSPECTIVES

“After Augsburg . . . Lutheranism developed a cultural strength in the universities and in the widespread educational system being developed under its auspices. Luther went on with his task of supervision, preaching, and writing; he died in 1546, towering above all the other early Protestants except, perhaps, John Calvin.”—*A Short History of Christianity*, p. 244.

ENRICHMENT READING

To learn more about Jesus in the past, present, and future, read these Bible passages and the parallel comments in *The Great Controversy*.

- **Revelation 2:18-29**—The Thyatira Church history period (A.D. 538-1798) as God sees it.
- **Revelation 6:9-11**—The Fifth Seal (A.D. 1517-1755)—a secular view of religious history.
- **Revelation 12:1-17**—Religious intolerance exposed.
- **Revelation 13:1-10 and Revelation 12:6**—God’s picture of Roman oppression (A.D. 538-1798).
- ***The Great Controversy***, chapters 10, 11, pp. **185-210** (151-174). **Bold** page numbers are for both the Standard edition and the bottom centered numbers in some paperbacks. Bible Reference Library edition page numbers are in parentheses.

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