



2025 Second Quarter Allusions Images

Lesson 10: Upon Whom the Ends Have Come

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SABBATH

Do we really feel we are at the end of this dreadful experiment between good and evil?

Did you know the Jews have been counting the years since creation?

The current 2024/2025 Hebrew year is 5,786; 214 years left until the 6,000 year mark. By this calculation, the end of the 6,000th year would occur at nightfall of September 16, 2240 on the Gregorian calendar; the Jewish “mysterious Jubilee.” According to Rabbi Yose ben-Halafta in the 2nd century CE (AD), the starting point of creation was Oct 7, 3,761 BCE.

For those who value the writings of Ellen G. White, the Great Controversy Pg 518 has this to say:

“The great controversy between Christ and Satan, that has been carried forward for nearly six thousand years, is soon to close; and the wicked one redoubles his efforts to defeat the work of Christ in man’s behalf, and to fasten souls in his snares. To hold the people in darkness and impenitence till the Saviour’s mediation is ended, and there is no longer a sacrifice for sin, is the object which he seeks to accomplish.”

None of here is going to live 214 more years, so how does this apply to us? Our end of time could come this very afternoon, this week or this month. At my age, many of my classmates from school are dying or dead. So, the Bible emphasizes, “But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called ‘Today,’ so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.” We need to keep God in our hearts and dwell with Him.

Memory text:

“Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.” 1 Corinthians 10:11,12

The Bible is filled with accounts of God’s people that point to future events and that hold keys to helping us understand present truth...Providing us a broader foundation for understanding the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation clearly.

The New Testament refers to Sodom and Gomorrah, the Flood, etc., in relationship to last-day events. This lesson searches stories in order to learn more details about the Second Coming, the investigative judgment, and the final crisis.

SUNDAY

The Wrath of the Lamb

The Wrath of the Lamb is the point of view of the wicked. When people can't acknowledge they are wrong, they blame others, they blame God that they can't stand being in His presence. To them, He is vengeful, wrathful and cruel. Like the Israelites at Mt. Sinai, who told Moses to talk with God for them, then tell them what He said, and couldn't even stand in the presence of Moses without a veil over his face to prevent them from being in spiritual and mental pain. (Exodus 34: 29-35)

Paul in Romans 1:18 – 32 makes it clear what God's wrath actually is. It is God finally giving them over to what they worship and believe and do. There is nothing in them that responds to Him and his love. The following verses describe what happens when God no longer protects them from His presence of pure love and truth:

“I watched as he opened the sixth seal. There was a great earthquake. The sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole moon turned blood red, and the stars in the sky fell to earth, as late figs drop from a fig tree when shaken by a strong wind. The sky receded like a scroll, rolling up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place. The kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and every slave and every free man hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. **They called to the mountains and the rocks, ‘Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!** For the great day of their wrath has come and who can stand?’ ” Revelation 6:12-17

Isaiah 13:6-9 says,

“Wail, for the day of the Lord is near; it will come like destruction from the Almighty. Because of this, all hands will go limp, every heart will melt with fear. Terror will seize them, pain and anguish will grip them; they will writhe like a woman in labor. **They will look aghast at each other, their faces aflame.** See, the day of the Lord is coming – a cruel day, with wrath and fierce anger – to make the land desolate and destroy the sinners within it.”

Zechariah 14 talks about the coming of the Lord, when he will be king over the whole earth. Verse 12 says,

“This is the plague with which the Lord will strike all the nations that fought against Jerusalem: **Their flesh will rot while they are still standing on their feet, their eyes will rot in their sockets, and their tongues will rot in their mouths.** On that day people will be stricken by the Lord with great panic. They will seize each other by the hand and attack one another.”

But people who have God's Spirit dwelling within them have a totally different experience in God's presence:

“The sinners in Zion are terrified; trembling grips the godless: ‘Who of us can dwell with the consuming fire? Who of us can dwell with everlasting burning?’ Those who walk righteously and speak what is right, who reject gain from extortion and keep their hands from accepting bribes, who stop their ears against plots of murder and shut their eyes against contemplating evil – they are the ones who will dwell on the heights, whose refuge will be the mountain fortress. Their bread will be supplied, and water will not fail them. Your eyes will see the king in his beauty and view a land that stretches afar.”

Prior to the end, the gospel is carried to every nation on earth (Matthew 24:14), and the three angels’ messages are delivered to the entire planet (Revelation 14: 6-12). And yet, there will be people who are caught off guard – not for lack of information, but **according to the lesson, “because of their refusal to believe and to obey. This will be the reason that such people are lost in the last days.”**

But in the Bible, James the brother of Jesus says,

“You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that – and shudder.”
James 2:19

So belief must mean more than understanding the fact that God exists, or that Jesus really came and died to save us. Jesus said,

“Now this is eternal life: that they KNOW you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.” Believing is a knowing intimacy with God.

1 Corinthians points out that even if we do good things, if we look like we are obeying, but don’t HAVE LOVE, we gain nothing. So even “obeying the rules” without love does not gain salvation for us.

Jesus used Sodom and Gomorrah as examples of what is to come at the end of the age.

“It was the same in the days of Lot. People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. But the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all. It will be just like this on the day the Son of Man is revealed. On that day no one who is on the housetop, with possessions inside, should go down to get them. Likewise, no one in the field should go back for anything. Remember Lot’s wife! Whoever tries to keep their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life will preserve it.”
Luke 17:28-33

What does it mean to “Lose your life” in a way that preserves it?

“Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: ‘Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Messiah. For the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. They

triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.’ Revelation 12:10, 11

In each of these stories we are examining, are we looking only at the destruction of evil (cancer, shall we say?), or are we looking at the salvation provided to Noah and his family, or to Lot and his daughters? Or to those who are saved at the end of all things?

“Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; say to those with fearful hearts, ‘Be strong, do not fear; **your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you.**” Isaiah 35: 3, 4

Though Noah preached for 120 years, warning the people of exactly what was going to happen in the coming flood and how to be saved, it still came as a surprise. People didn’t believe. “They were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away.” (Matthew 24:36-44)

MONDAY

Noah’s Evangelism

Today, can we see how much this generation is like the generations alive when the flood came?

“The Lord saw how great man’s wickedness on the earth had become, **and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time.** The Lord was grieved that he had made man on the earth, **and his heart was filled with pain.**” Genesis 6:5,6

“Now the earth was corrupt in God’s sight, and was full of violence. God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways. So God said to Noah, ‘I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth.’” Genesis 6: 11-13

Even though the world has a collective memory of a great deluge (an astonishing number of global cultures tell the story of a devastating flood, from the ancient Greeks to the Mayans). many will be unprepared for Christ’s return because they “willfully forget”, and ridicule the story as a myth.

“But they deliberately forget that long ago by God’s word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water. By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men. But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, **not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.** But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed

in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives, as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming [or “as you wait eagerly for the day of God to come”]. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.” 2 Peter 3:5-13

Just like Noah warning the people for 120 years before the flood, we are tasked with warning the inhabitants of the earth about the end of everything on the earth by fire, and what needs to be done to prepare. In Noah’s day, 8 people lived....everyone else died. In Lot’s day, all inhabitants of five cities were wiped out, 3 people lived.

This is our message now that the end of all things is at hand:

Jesus said in Matthew 7:11-14,

“If you, then though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him? So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets. Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.”

And in Matthew 11: 27-30, Jesus said,

“All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and **no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him**. Com to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. **Take my yoke upon you and learn from me**, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

God is like the old experienced horse, yoked together with the young, inexperienced horse. The old one teaches and shows the young one how to do the job, and the young horse’s job is to watch and learn. The old horse is doing the real work.

“Lord, you establish peace for us; **all that we have accomplished you have done for us.**”
Isaiah 26:12

In Noah’s day, God warned and instructed, Noah believed and obeyed the God he trusted, and God showed him exactly how to be saved from the flood. And he was saved. God is doing the same for us...because God, the consuming fire, is coming soon.

TUESDAY

The Story of Sodom and Gomorrah

Sin is remarkable deceptive in that it blinds us to the state of our own hearts. How do you enlighten yourself and others as to the true state?

Sometimes it takes a story.

“The Lord sent Nathan to David. When he came to him, he said, ‘There were two men in a certain town, one rich and the other poor. The rich man had a very large number of sheep and cattle, but the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb he had bought. He raised it, and it grew up with him and his children. It shared his food, drank from his cup and even slept in his arms. It was like a daughter to him. Now a traveler came to the rich man, but the rich man refrained from taking one of his own sheep or cattle to prepare a meal for the traveler who had come to him. Instead, he took the ewe lamb that belonged to the poor man and prepared it for the one who had come to him.’ David burned with anger against the man and said to Nathan, ‘As surely as the Lord lives, the man who did this must die! He must pay for that lamb four times over, because he did such a thing and had no pity.’ Then Nathan said to David, **‘you are the man!** This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: ‘I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. I gave your master’s house to you, and your master’s wives into your arms. I gave you all Israel and Judah. And if all this had been too little, I would have given you even more. Why did you despise the word of the Lord by doing what is evil in his eyes? You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your own. You killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own. This is what the Lord says, ‘Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity on you. Before your very eyes I will take your wives and give them to one who is close to you, and he will sleep with your wives in broad daylight. You did it in secret, but I will do this thing in broad daylight before all Israel.’ Then David said to Nathan, ‘I have sinned against the Lord.’ Nathan replied, ‘The Lord has taken away your sin. **you are not going to die.** But because by doing this you have shown utter contempt for the Lord, **the son born to you will die.**’

Sometimes it takes a prayer.

God has always answered this prayer when I have courage enough to pray it. “Lord, show me who I really am, and give me the courage to turn to you for healing when you do.” Be willing to endure the pain and the shame that will occur. Better to pull the weeds of worldly character now than feel the full on effects of an unclean heart at end of the age.

“Surely wickedness burns like a fire; it consumes briars and thorns, it sets the forest thickets ablaze, so that it rolls upward in a column of smoke.” Isaiah 9:18

“For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell [Greek Tartarus], putting them into gloomy dungeons [chains of darkness] to be held for judgment; if he did not spare the ancient worlds when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others; if he condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, and made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; and if he rescued Lot, a righteous man, who was distressed by the filthy lives of lawless men (for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard) – if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment. [or, unrighteous for punishment until the day of judgment]. This is especially true of those who follow the corrupt desire of the sinful nature and despise authority. Bold and arrogant, these men are not afraid to slander celestial beings; yet even angels, although they are stronger and more powerful, do not bring slanderous accusations against such beings in the presence of the Lord. But these men blaspheme in matters they do not understand. They are like brute beasts, creatures of instinct, born only to be caught and destroyed, and like beasts they too will perish. They will be paid back with harm for the harm they have done. Their ideas of pleasure is to carouse in broad daylight. They are blots and blemishes, reveling in their pleasures while they feast with you. With eyes full of adultery, they never stop sinning; they seduce the unstable; they are experts in greed – an accursed brood! ...These men are springs without water and mists driven by a storm. **Blackest darkness is reserved for them.**” 2 Peter 2: 4-14, 17

“Though you already know all this, I want to remind you that the Lord delivered his people out of Egypt, but later destroyed those who did not believe. And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their own home – these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day. In a similar way, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire. In the very same way, these dreamers pollute their own bodies, reject authority and slander celestial beings.” Jude 5-8

God was talking to His own people when he said,

“Your older sister was Samaria, who lived to the north of you with her daughters; and your younger sister, who lived to the south of you with her daughters, was Sodom. You not only walked in their detestable practices, but in all your ways **you soon became more depraved than they**. As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign Lord, your sister Sodom and her daughters never did what you and your daughters have done. Now **this was the sin of your sister Sodom: She and her daughters were arrogant, overfed and unconcerned; they did not help the poor and needy. They were haughty and did detestable things before me.** Therefore, I did away with them as you have seen.” Ezekiel 16:46-50

WEDNESDAY

The Judge of All the Earth

“Then the Lord said, ‘Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do? Abraham will surely become a great and powerful nation, and all nations on earth will be blessed through him. For I have chosen him so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing what is right and just, so that the Lord will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him.’ Then the Lord said, **‘the outcry against sodom and gomorrah is so great and their sin so grievous that i will go down and see if what they have done is as bad as the outcry that has reached me. If not, i will know.’** The men turned away and went toward Sodom, but Abraham remained standing before the Lord. Then Abraham approached him and said: ‘Will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked? What if there are fifty righteous people in the city? Will you really sweep it away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous people in it? Far be it from you to do such a thing – to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked alike. Far be it from You! Will not the Judge [or Ruler] of all the earth do right?’ The Lord said, ‘If I find fifty righteous people in the city of Sodom, I will spare the whole place for their sake.’ Then Abraham spoke up again, ‘Now that I have been so bold as to speak to the Lord, though I am nothing but dust and ashes, what if the number of the righteous is five less than fifty? Will you destroy the whole city because of the five people?’ ‘If I find forty-five there,’ he said, ‘I will not destroy it,’ Once again he spoke to him ‘What if only forty are found there?’ He said, ‘For the sake of forty, I will not do it.’ Then he said, ‘May the Lord not be angry, but let me speak. What if only thirty can be found there?’ He answered, ‘I will not do it if I find thirty there.’ He said, ‘For the sake of twenty, I will not destroy it,’ Then he said, ‘May the Lord not be angry, but let me speak just once more. What if only ten can be found there?’ He answered, “for the sake of ten, I will not destroy it.’ Genesis 18: 17-32

Notice Abraham is not only examining the case of Sodom, but he is also examining the character of God. Likewise, before the end comes, God opens the books of heaven (Revelation 20:4, 11-15) and allows us and the universe to investigate the evidence before He finally brings fire down on the earth. We will have a thousand years to get all our questions answered...the “why” questions we all struggle with. Why are those we thought would be saved weren’t saved? Why are those we thought would never be saved were saved? Why did good things happen to bad people and why bad things happen to good people? Why is life so unfair? God rules with transparency. We all must understand, so that this cancer of sin can never return!

“But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.” 2 Peter 3:8, 9

I’d like to suggest that for us here on earth, the Seventh-day Sabbath, which God especially blessed (Exodus 2: 2,3) and asks us to remember (Exodus 20:8-11), reflects the same reasoning and activities as the Millennium. For six thousand years, the active war against good and evil, the Creator against the

deceptive accuser Satan, has been waging here on earth. Then He gives us one thousand years to think about and understand the whole process.

In the same way, after God spent six days using mighty power to create everything here, He gave us one day to think about how He uses power, His nature, His creative capabilities, His perfection and love. To look into the mysteries of nature, to understand how each thing relates to the other and the circle of unselfish giving that exists everywhere in nature is to begin to understand and trust Him. To develop our relationship with Him.

Even in the new earth, the Sabbath will be kept as a reminder of this experiment on earth and its outcome. Isaiah 66: 22, 23 says,

“As the new heavens and the new earth that I make will endure before me,” declares the Lord, “so will your name and descendants endure. From one New Moon to another and from one Sabbath to another, all mankind will come and bow down before me,” says the Lord.”

Ultimately, we will decide (judge) that God is right and perfect in all His ways. “Let God be true, and every human being a liar. As it is written:

‘**So that you may be proved right** when you speak, **and prevail** when you judge.’” Romans 3:4 (Quoted from Psalm 51:4).

THURSDAY

The Pre-Advent Judgment

The description of judgment found in Daniel 7 gives us a glimpse behind the veil – to an awe-inspiring opportunity to see how God is resolving the problem of sin while still redeeming those who wish to live in a covenant relationship with Him.

“As I looked, ‘thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took his seat. His clothing was as white as snow; the hair of his head was white like wool. His throne was flaming with fire and its wheels were all ablaze. A river of fire was flowing, coming out from before him. Thousands upon thousands attended him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. The court was seated, and the books were opened....In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a **son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power;** all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. ‘His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed....[Angel interpretation] But the saints of the Most High will receive the kingdom and will possess it forever – yes, for ever and ever.’...**the Ancient of Days came and pronounced judgment in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came when they possessed the kingdom...** [Angel interpretation] ‘after them another king will arise, different from the earlier ones; he will subdue three kings. He will speak against the Most High

and oppress his saints and try to change the set times and the laws. The saints will be handed over to him for a time, times and half a time (or for a year, two years and half a year). But the court will sit, and his power will be taken away and completely destroyed forever. **Then the sovereignty, power and greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be handed over to the saints, the people of the Most High.** His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all rulers will worship and obey him.’ Daniel 7: 9,10, 13, 14, 18, 22, 24-27

Second paragraph in the lesson says,

“There is little question that the human race is judged by God. Ecclesiastes 12:14 assures us that **‘God will bring every work (or, deed) into judgment’**”

What does this mean?

I have been to court regarding medical work and personal situations. In both cases, what is brought into court is records and evidence. It is not the results of judgment, but rather the evidence upon which to base the judgment. Looking at our sin problem and resolution from a medical rather than a judicial perspective, as a medical professional, I was like a recording angel, keeping record of how the patient was responding to treatment, changes of treatment plan to ensure a better outcome, and even documenting when the patient refused the treatment ordered by the physician. These records are taken to help everyone understand what was done or not done, and the outcome.

It is God who is on trial in the minds of the universe. We are merely His witnesses as to what He does to save us, to rescue us.

What did Jesus himself say about judgment?

“Moreover, **the Father judges no one**, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him.” John 5:22, 23

“If anyone hears my words but does not keep them, **I do not judge that person. For I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world.** There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; **the very words I have spoken will condemn them at the last day.**” John 12: 47-50

Jesus also warns us about how we judge:

“Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye. “ Matthew 7:1-5

“Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.” Luke 6:37, 38

Paul says, in 1 Corinthians 6:2, 3,

“Or do you not know that the Lord’s people will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases? Do you not know that we will judge angels?”

What does it mean to be “held accountable?”

“Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God’s sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.” Romans 3:19, 20

“When I say to a wicked person, ‘You will surely die,’ and you do not warn them or speak out to dissuade them from their evil ways in order to save their life, that wicked person will die for their sin, and I will hold you accountable for their blood. But if you do warn the wicked person and they do not turn from their wickedness or from their evil ways, they will die for their sin; but you will have saved yourself. Again, when a righteous person turns from their righteousness and does evil, and I put a stumbling block before them, they will die. Since you did not warn them, they will die for their sin. The righteous things that person did will not be remembered, and I will hold you accountable for their blood. But if you do warn the righteous person not to sin and they do not sin, they will surely live because they took warning, and you will have saved yourself.” Ezekiel 3: 18-21

“The word of the Lord came to me: ‘Son of man, speak to your people and say to them: “When I bring the sword against a land, and the people of the land choose one of their men and make him their watchman, and he sees the sword coming against the land and blows the trumpet to warn the people, then if anyone hears the trumpet but does not heed the warning and the sword comes and takes their life, their blood will be on their own head. Since they heard the sound of the trumpet but did not heed the warning, their blood will be on their own head. If they had heeded the warning, they would have saved themselves. But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet to warn the people and the sword comes and takes someone’s life, that person’s life will be taken because of their sin, but I will hold the watchman accountable for their blood.”’ Ezekiel 33: 1-6

Will this information be part of what truth is shown to the lost, what we failed to do and the outcomes of that failure? How heart wrenching that will be.

The Bible actually gives the results of the final judgment:

“You are worthy, Our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.” Revelation 4:11

“How you have fallen from heaven, morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! You said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to the heavens; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.’ But you are brought down to the realm of the dead, to the depths of the pit. Those who see you stare at you, they ponder your fate: ‘Is this the man who shook the earth and made kingdoms tremble, the man who made the world a wilderness, who overthrew its cities and would not let his captives go home?’ All the kings of the nations lie in state, each in his own tomb. But you are cast out of your tomb like a rejected branch; you are covered with the slain, with those pierced by the sword, those who descend to the stones of the pit. Like a corpse trampled underfoot, you will not join them in burial, for you have destroyed your land and killed your people. Let the offspring of the wicked never be mentioned again.” Isaiah 14:12-20

FRIDAY

Further Thought

“Satan’s accusations against those who seek the Lord are not prompted by displeasure at their sins. He exults in their defective character; for he knows that only through their transgression of God’s law can he obtain power over them. His accusations arise solely from his enmity to Christ. Through the plan of salvation, Jesus is breaking Satan’s hold upon the human family and rescuing souls from his power....In his own strength, man cannot meet the charges of the enemy. In sin-stained garments, confessing his guilt, he stands before God. But Jesus, our Advocate, presents an effectual plea in behalf of all who by repentance and faith have committed the keeping of their souls to Him. He pleads their cause, and by the mighty arguments of Calvary, vanquishes their accuser. His perfect obedience to God’s law has given Him all power in heaven and in earth, and He claims from His Father mercy and reconciliation for guilty man.” Ellen G. White, *Prophets and Kings*, pp 585-586

Satan is the accuser and it is Satan’s accusations which are defeated. God’s character and methods are upheld in the minds of all created beings.

“At the coming of Christ the wicked are blotted from the face of the whole earth, consumed with the spirit of his mouth, and destroyed by the brightness of his glory.” Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, pg 657

Question from the Lesson:

Prior to devouring the wicked with fire from heaven (as He did with Sodom), God raises them from the dead and allows Satan to work with them for a short while (Revelation 20:7-9). What reasons can you think of that this would be a necessary last step before God sets everything right?

The saved, the universe and the wicked will all understand that if the wicked could have been in the Holy City with God, they had every chance to do so. The gates of the New Jerusalem were open the whole time. They simply cannot and will not.

Ellen G. White wrote in *The Great Controversy*, pg 664,

“At last the order to advance is given, and the countless host moves on, an army such as was never summoned by earthly conquerors, such as the combined forces of all ages since war began on earth could never equal. Satan, the mightiest of warriors, leads the van, and his angels unite their forces for this final struggle. Kings and warriors are in his train, and the multitudes follow in vast companies, each under its appointed leader. With military precision, the serried ranks advance over the earth’s broken and uneven surface to the city of God. **By command of Jesus, the gates of the New Jerusalem are closed,** and the armies of Satan surround the city, and make ready for the onset.”

