

“Prepare to Meet Thy God!”



For Such a Time as This

**Who Can Stand?
Study Guide**

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Introduction



You have been divinely planned; you have been divinely chosen. Your task is like none other—for it is uniquely and perfectly suited to match your gifts and talents. God has a plan for you, and if carefully followed, will propel you to accomplish what can best be achieved by you. There was only one Noah, one Moses and one Daniel on earth, but inspiration brings to light how wonderfully God wrought His purposes through these men. God was able to do this because they were totally committed to His plan for them, they submitted to the hardships that were required of them, and they carefully sought to walk before Him by constantly seeking His guidance. Popular opinion did not sway them, and criticism did not deter them from moving forward with their God-assigned tasks. It only caused them to seek His presence more diligently, imploring God for greater strength and courage. Such is now your opportunity, for you are God’s instrument. “You have come to the kingdom for such a time as this” (Esther 4:14).

1

What was God's purpose in creating man?

"I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him. ... Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he ... I, even I, am the Lord. ... This people have I formed for myself; they shall shew forth my praise" (Isaiah 43:7, 10, 11, 21, KJV).

"God has a special work for everyone to do, and each one of us may do well the work which God has assigned him. The only thing we have to fear on our part is that we shall not keep our eyes continually fixed upon Jesus" (2SM 273).

"God gives to every man his work, and with the imparted commission He gives to His messengers a measure of power proportionate to their faith" (RC 112).

Note: When God made man, He created him in His own image with a high and holy destiny. He endowed man with wonderful capabilities to comprehend the thoughts of God, to reflect the beauty of His character and to cooperate with Him in ruling the universe. When Jesus came to this world, He dedicated Himself to one purpose, and that was to display the glory and character of His Father to the human race. And now He asks us to do the same for Him.

2

Did God have a plan for your life before He created you?

"For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. ... My frame was not hidden from You, when I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. *And in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned*

for me, when as yet there were none of them” (Psalm 139:13–16, emphasis supplied).

“For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future” (Jeremiah 29:11, NIV).

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you [set you apart]” (Jeremiah 1:5).

Note: God knew the day when you would be born. He anticipated the time when He would have the opportunity to put His plan for you into action—the one that He had written in His books. Despite the fact that none of us have followed that plan perfectly, He is still able to take the broken pieces of our lives and make a beautiful mosaic that will fulfill His blueprint for us and will glorify Him in the end. And now, as we have dedicated ourselves to His cause, we can go to Him and ask Him to tell us what He has written down on our page for that day. Then He will guide us in the way chosen for us—a path that will bring us the greatest happiness and fulfillment. It doesn’t get any better than that!

3

Has God promised to guide and direct His people in the pathway chosen for them?

“He will instruct him in the way chosen for him” (Psalm 25:12, NIV).

“I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you” (Psalm 32:8, NIV).

“Those who decide to do nothing in any line that will displease God, will know, after presenting their case before Him, just what course to pursue. And they will receive not only wisdom, but strength. Power for obedience, for service, will be imparted to them, as Christ has promised” (DA 668).

“God never leads His children otherwise than they would choose to be led, if they could see the end from the beginning, and discern the glory of the purpose which they are fulfilling as co-workers with Him” (DA 224, 225).

Note: Jesus has promised to instruct us in every detail of life. We may have Him as our constant companion to help us with every decision that we face each day. As we thus learn to depend upon Him, we can rest assured that He will not lead us astray but will direct us in paths that will further His work. Then we too will hear the words spoken to us by our Beloved Guide, “Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord” (Matthew 25:21).

4

Who were some of the men and women in the Bible who recognized that they had been called “to the kingdom for such a time as this” and were faithful to the call of God in their generation?

Abraham: There was Abraham, the father of the faithful, a friend of God, who left behind kindred and friends to follow the call of God “By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going” (Hebrews 11:8).

“Relying upon the divine promise, without the least outward assurance of its fulfillment, he abandoned home and kindred and native land, and went forth, he knew not whither, to follow where God should lead. ... God has spoken, and His servant must obey; the happiest place on earth for him was the place where God would have him to be” (PP 126).

Noah: Although it had never rained, Noah believed God and proceeded at His instruction to build an ark. “Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did” (Genesis 6:22). Because of his faithfulness, his whole family was saved as well as the animals.

“While Noah was giving his warning message to the world, his works testified of his sincerity. It was thus that his faith was perfected and made evident. He gave the world an example of believing just what God says. All that he possessed, he invested in the ark” (PP 95).

Moses: “By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward” (Hebrews 11:24-26).

“Moses had been instructed in regard to the final reward to be given to the humble and obedient servants of God, and worldly gain sank to its proper insignificance in comparison. ... He saw by faith an imperishable crown that the King of heaven would place on the brow of the overcomer. This faith led him to turn away from the lordly ones of earth and join the humble, poor, despised nation that had chosen to obey God rather than to serve sin” (PP 246).

Esther: When Esther recognized that the lives of all the Jews still living in Medo-Persia depended upon her faithfulness, she was willing to risk her life to save her people. God wrought wonderfully to deliver His people from the hatred and destruction of their enemies.

Jesus: There are many more too numerous to mention, but ultimately this principle was best illustrated in the life of Christ. At the age of 12, He had diligently studied the Scriptures and attended His first Passover Feast in Jerusalem, at which time He recognized that He was the Lamb that was to be slain for the redemption of the world. Because Jesus knew who He was, He was able to fulfill His mission here on earth.

Note: In every age, in every generation, God has always had a people who have been faithful to Him—a people who knew they were called and chosen, and then responded to their call. This generation is no exception. God still has a special people today, and He is counting on them to be loyal to His cause. We can be sure that God has us where He wants us to be, and He is able to place us wherever we will best serve His cause. You are where you are for such a time as this! Trust Him and obey, and give Him the glory!

5

Does God have a special work for you and me to do that only we can do?

When our “eyes have seen the King, The Lord of hosts,” our response will be that of Isaiah. Then when the Lord says to us, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?” We will respond, “Here am I! Send me” (Isaiah 6:5, 8).

“The Lord has His eye upon every one of His people; He has His plans concerning each” (CCh 78). Resting in His guidance and direction, you could not be safer or more secure. “Christ’s followers have been redeemed for service. ... He gives ‘to every man his work.’ Each has his place in the eternal plan of heaven. Each is to work in co-operation with Christ for the salvation of souls. Not more surely is the place prepared for us in the heavenly mansions than is the special place designated on earth where we are to work for God” (COL 326, 327).

Note: As God looked down through the centuries, He saw the final generation coming onto the stage of this earth’s history. God knew when we would be born, and He had already planned a very unique assignment for you and me—a work for which He has created us. He has given us talents and abilities that if dedicated to Him will enable us to reach His highest ideal. Our destiny is determined by our willingness to connect with His divine purpose and by allowing Him to empower us to fulfill that calling. As we thus cooperate with God, we will experience heights of joy and fulfillment unknown to most of mankind.

6

Has the generation living just before the Second Coming of Christ been especially chosen to prepare the world for that event?

“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light” (1 Peter 2:9).

“For you are a holy people to the Lord your God; the Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth” (Deuteronomy 7:6).

“I am instructed to say to Seventh-day Adventists the world over, God has called us as a people to be a peculiar treasure unto Himself. He has appointed that His church on earth shall stand perfectly united in the Spirit and counsel of the Lord of hosts to the end of time” (2SM 397).

Note: Seventh-day Adventists have been destined by God to proclaim a message to the world that will usher in the kingdom of glory and bring an end to the reign of sin and suffering. We have been given a message and a mission that will enable everyone who will cooperate with God to have the opportunity of being saved and have the honor of being translated without seeing death. This is an incomprehensible privilege.

7

In order to be faithful to the call of God, what is the divine mandate that we must share with the world?

The proclamation of the three angels' messages is to be our work:

“In a special sense Seventh-day Adventists have been set in the world as watchmen and light bearers. To them has been entrusted the last warning for a perishing world. On them is shining wonderful light

from the word of God. They have been given a work of the most solemn import—the proclamation of the first, second, and third angels’ messages. There is no other work of so great importance. They are to allow nothing else to absorb their attention. The most solemn truths ever entrusted to mortals have been given us to proclaim to the world. The proclamation of these truths is to be our work. The world is to be warned, and God’s people are to be true to the trust committed to them” (9T 19).

“Seventh-day Adventists have been chosen by God as a peculiar people, separate from the world. By the great cleaver of truth He has cut them out from the quarry of the world and brought them into connection with Himself. He has made them His representatives and has called them to be ambassadors for Him in the last work of salvation. The greatest wealth of truth ever entrusted to mortals, the most solemn and fearful warnings ever sent by God to man, have been committed to them to be given to the world” (7T 138).

8

Why is it imperative that we individually connect with our unique denominational identity?

“And you, my child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways, to give knowledge of salvation to His people by the remission of their sins, ... to give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace” (Luke 1:76, 77, 79).

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“But the path of the just is like the shining sun, that shines ever brighter unto the perfect day” (Proverbs 4:18).

Note: Perhaps one of the reasons why many today are unable to present a clear message to the world is because we don't know why we are Seventh-day Adventists. We see little difference between ourselves and our Christian neighbors. SDA's have a unique denominational identity. We were raised up to gather all the truths which Protestantism brought to light and then continue walking in all the advancing light which Jesus is continually sending from the Most Holy Place of the heavenly sanctuary where He officiates as our High Priest today. Since we are called to live in a time of unparalleled spiritual darkness, it becomes a matter of spiritual life and death to walk in all the light proceeding from the throne of God and not miss any communications He is sending us.

9

How are we to face the obstacles and opposition of the enemy as we move forward in our calling?

“No weapon forged against you will prevail, and you will refute every tongue that accuses you. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and this is their vindication from me,” declares the Lord” (Isaiah 54:17, NIV).

“Trust in the Lord. Let not the feelings, the speeches, or the attitude of any human agent depress you. Be careful that in words or act you do not give others any opportunity to obtain the advantage in hurting you. ... Do not afflict your souls over the inconsistencies of others. ... Keep looking unto Jesus. He is your strength. By beholding Jesus you will become changed into His likeness. He will be the health of your countenance and your God” (OFC 242).

“Obstacles to the advancement of the work of God will appear; but fear not. ... Nothing can stand in His way. His power is absolute, and it is the pledge of the sure fulfillment of His promises to His people. He can remove all obstructions to the advancement of His work. He has means for the removal of every difficulty, that those who serve Him and respect the means He employs may be delivered. His goodness and love are infinite, and His covenant is unalterable.

“The plans of the enemies of His work may seem to be firm and well established, but He can overthrow the strongest of these plans, and in His own time and way He will do this, when He sees that our faith has been sufficiently tested and that we are drawing near to Him and making Him our counselor.

“In the darkest days, when appearances seem so forbidding, fear not. Have faith in God. He is working out His will, doing all things well in behalf of His people. The strength of those who love and serve Him will be renewed day by day. His understanding will be placed at their service, that they may not err in the carrying out of His purposes.

“There is to be no despondency in God’s service. Our faith is to endure the pressure brought to bear upon it. God is able and willing to bestow upon His servants all the strength they need. He will more than fulfill the highest expectations of those who put their trust in Him” (SD 219).

“My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness” (2 Corinthians 12:9). “He is able and willing to bestow upon His servants all the help they need. He will give them the wisdom which their varied necessities demand” (MH 482).

10 As the great controversy is about to close, are you willing to be a witness for Jesus and be a light to the world?

“You are My witnesses,’ says the Lord, ‘And My servant whom I have chosen” (Isaiah 43:10). “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

Jesus is “Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful” (Revelation 17:14). Jesus always knew that His love and sacrifice would produce a final generation who would be willing to follow Him through the trials and challenges of the final work of salvation. Are you willing to be among His chosen, faithful people?

Note: Just before ascending to His Father, Jesus gave this magnificent promise to His disciples. The early rain was about to fall, empowering the band of believers to preach a message that would shake the then-known world. Likewise, this promise is also meant for you and me, for as it states in Acts 1:8, we are His witnesses today to fulfill His will in the last generation under the power of the latter rain.

11

Our appeal to each of you, dearly beloved Seventh-day Adventist church members:

“You need not go to the ends of the earth for wisdom, for God is near. It is not the capabilities you now possess or ever will have that will give you success. *It is that which the Lord can do for you.* We need to have far less confidence in what man can do and far more confidence in what God can do for every believing soul. He longs to have you reach after Him by faith. He longs to have you expect great things from Him. He longs to give you understanding in temporal as well as in spiritual matters. He can sharpen the intellect. He can give tact and skill. Put your talents into the work, ask God for wisdom, and it will be given you” (COL 146, emphasis supplied).

“We are not to place the responsibility of our duty upon others, and wait for them to tell us what to do. We cannot depend for counsel upon humanity. The Lord will teach us our duty just as willingly as He will teach somebody else. ... Those who decide to do nothing in any line that will displease God, will know, after presenting their case before Him, just what course to pursue. And they will receive not only wisdom, but strength. Power for obedience, for service, will be imparted to them, as Christ has promised. Whatever was given to Christ—the ‘all things’ to supply the need of fallen men—was given to Him as the head and representative of humanity” (DA 668, emphasis supplied).

“The humblest worker, moved by the Holy Spirit, will touch invisible chords, whose vibrations will ring to the ends of the earth, and make melody through eternal ages. ... He [Jesus] teaches us to look upon every needy soul as our brother, and the world as our field” (DA 823).

“The church is God’s appointed agency for the salvation of men. It was organized for service, and its mission is to carry the gospel to the world. From the beginning it has been God’s plan that through His church shall be reflected to the world His fullness and His sufficiency. The members of the church, those whom He has called out of darkness into His marvelous light, are to show forth His glory. The church is the repository of the riches of the grace of Christ; and through the church will eventually be made manifest, even to ‘the principalities and powers in heavenly places,’ the final and full display of the love of God. Ephesians 3:10” (AA 9).

Note: Jesus entreats you today to diligently seek Him so that He might reveal the special work He has for you to do in these closing moments before probation ends. No matter what may be your station in life or your present circumstances, regardless of your educational level or your talents and capabilities, Jesus is inviting you to come to Him and perseveringly seek Him until you have fully connected with His blueprint plan for your life. He has a work designed for you to do which can best be accomplished by you. Because you are His beloved, you have a unique and distinct place to fill.

Your Commitment to Jesus

Recognizing that you have been called to the kingdom for such a time as this, are you willing to commit to seek God with all your heart, to better understand the blueprint plan for your life and then through His strength and wisdom to do the very work specifically assigned to you?

Your Response _____

Key to Abbreviations of E. G. White Book Titles

CCh..... *Counsels for the Church*

COL *Christ's Object Lessons*

DA *The Desire of Ages*

MH *The Ministry of Healing*

OFC *Our Father Cares*

PP *Patriarchs and Prophets*

RC *Reflecting Christ*

RH *The Review and Herald* periodical

SD *Sons and Daughters of God*

2SM *Selected Messages, Volume 2*

7T *Testimonies for the Church, Volume 7*

9T *Testimonies for the Church, Volume 9*

“Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free!”

This Study Guide is number two in a series of twelve.

Study Guide 1—“Watchman, What of the Night?”

Study Guide 2—“For Such a Time as This”

Study Guide 3—“My Sheep Hear My Voice”

Study Guide 4—“Then Shall the Sanctuary be Cleansed”

Study Guide 5—“The Hour of His Judgment has Come”

Study Guide 6—“Holy, Harmless [and] Undefined”

Study Guide 7—“That Your Sins May Be Blotted Out”

Study Guide 8—“And the Earth was Illuminated with His Glory”

Study Guide 9—“These Follow the Lamb Wherever He Goes”

Study Guide 10—“He Who is Holy, Let Him be Holy Still”

Study Guide 11—“You Are My Hiding Place”

Study Guide 12—“The Cleansing of Our Soul Temple”

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