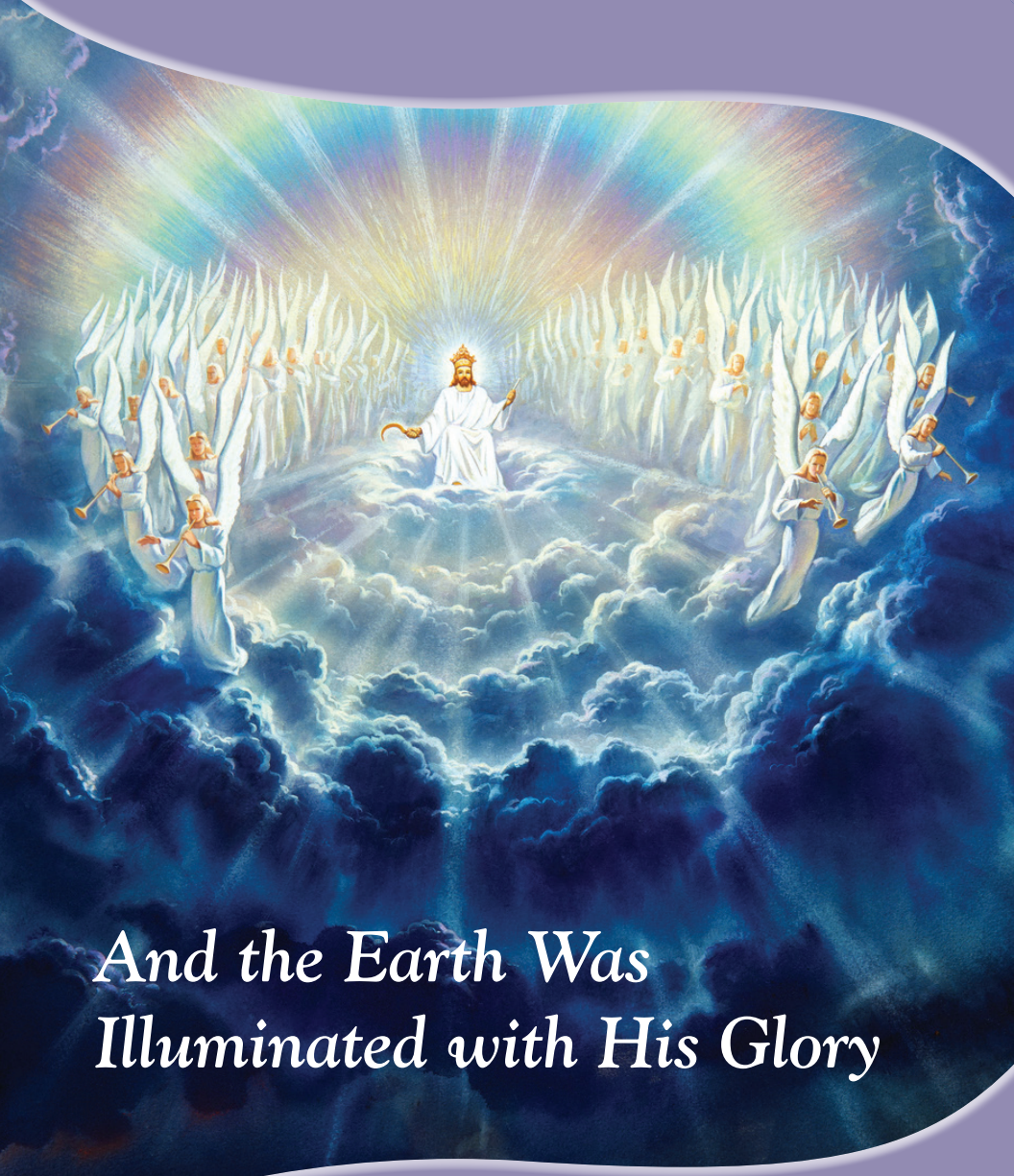


*“Prepare to Meet Thy God!”*



*And the Earth Was  
Illuminated with His Glory*

**Who Can Stand?  
Study Guide**

**8**

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# Introduction



*All of heaven has been anxiously waiting for this moment in time. God's people, reflecting the image of Jesus, are now prepared to receive the full outpouring of the latter rain. They have agonized long and hard upon their knees, pleading for victory over every sin and unchristlikeness of character. (See EW 269, 270.) They have recognized where they have been in agreement with the enemy, and have replaced the lies they once believed with the truth of God's Word. Their hearts are one with their precious Savior, whom they have learned to love and adore. They have walked with Jesus day by day and are ready to join Him in the final phase of the battle between good and evil.*

*The outpouring of the latter rain will be the greatest manifestation of God's Spirit ever witnessed. When this pent-up fountain of glory and power pours forth, it is heaven's signature of approval that His people have cooperated with Jesus in the complete cleansing of their soul temple. Light will be seen flashing around the globe, penetrating the remotest regions of the world, as God's faithful witnesses fearlessly proclaim earth's final message.*

*Unity and division will be seen everywhere, for mankind will be compelled to make their decision to stand for or against truth.*

Thousands will hear words that they have never heard before and will hasten to make peace with God. These will join the ranks of God's people, and there will be a mighty army preaching a message that will shake this planet. His faithful remnant will be surprised as they witness the effect of their words. "I heard voices which seemed to sound everywhere, [saying] Come out of her, My people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues" (EW 277). Jesus is now inviting you to be among His faithful witnesses who are preparing to sound earth's final warning. Will you join us in accepting His call?

1

## Why is the outpouring of the Holy Spirit a necessity for God's people?

"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).

"The work of the Holy Spirit is immeasurably great. It is from this source that power and efficiency come to the worker for God. ... As Christ was glorified on the day of Pentecost, so will He again be glorified in the closing work of the gospel, when He shall prepare a people to stand the final test, in the closing conflict of the great controversy" (RH Nov. 29, 1892).

**Note:** The latter rain will give God's people the spiritual fitness to present the three angels' messages with great power, even as the disciples preached present truth in their generation. Ellen G. White saw that "this message will close with power and strength far exceeding the midnight cry" (EW 78).

Through the power of the latter rain, the message of Christ's righteousness will envelop this globe and gather every sincere soul into the fold. The latter rain will also strengthen God's people to stand through the great time of trouble when every earthly support will be cut off. It will enable the final remnant to go through the time of Jacob's trouble, when Satan tries his utmost to discourage them as the wicked threaten to destroy them.

## 2

### How do we prepare to receive the outpouring of the latter rain of the Holy Spirit?

It is through persevering prayer that we enter into this relationship with Jesus. “His [Christ’s] own example is an assurance that earnest, persevering supplication to God in faith—faith that leads to entire dependence upon God, and unreserved consecration to His work—will avail to bring to men the Holy Spirit’s aid in the battle against sin” (GW 511).

1. By returning to Jesus with our whole heart through confession and repentance

“Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord” (Acts 3:19). “By prayer and confession of sin we must clear the King’s highway” (8T 297).

2. By surrendering our souls to be guided and controlled by the divine agencies

“Christ has promised the gift of the Holy Spirit to His church ... [but we must] surrender the soul to be guided and controlled by the divine agencies. We cannot use the Holy Spirit. The Spirit is to use us. Through the Spirit, God works in His people ‘to will and to do of His good pleasure’” (DA 672).

3. By humbling our hearts, loving one another and not striving for the highest place

“It was after the disciples had come into perfect unity, when they were no longer striving for the highest place, that the Spirit was poured out. They were of one accord. All differences had been put away” (8T 20).

“When the laborers have an abiding Christ in their own souls, when all selfishness is dead, when there is no rivalry, no strife for the supremacy, when oneness exists, when they sanctify themselves, so that love for one another is seen and felt, then the showers of the grace of the Holy Spirit will just as surely come upon them as that God’s promise will never fail in one jot or tittle” (ISM 175).

4. By praying earnestly and perseveringly for the outpouring of the latter rain

“Ask the Lord for rain in the time of the latter rain. The Lord will make flashing clouds; He will give them showers of rain, grass in the field for everyone” (Zechariah 10:1).

“We must pray that God will unseal the fountain of the water of life. ... Let us, with contrite hearts, pray most earnestly that now, in the time of the latter rain, the showers of grace may fall upon us. ... If we pray for the blessing in faith, we shall receive it as God has promised” (TM 508).

5. By unifying under the banner of truth

“The Spirit can never be poured out while variance and bitterness toward one another are cherished by the members of the church. Envy, jealousy, evil surmising, and evil-speaking are of Satan, and they effectually bar the way against the Holy Spirit’s working. ... Nothing so offends God as an act that injures the influence of those who are doing His service.

“Before the prophecy can be fulfilled ... the children of God must put away every thought of suspicion in regard to their brethren. Heart must beat in unison with heart. ... The words are ringing in my ears: ‘Draw together, draw together.’ The solemn, sacred truth for this time is to unify the people of God. The desire for pre-eminence must die. One subject of emulation must swallow up all others—who will most nearly resemble Christ in character? who will most entirely hide self in Jesus?” (6T 42).

6. By having a willingness to witness for Jesus

“When the churches become living, working churches, the Holy Spirit will be given in answer to their sincere request. ... Then the windows of heaven will be open for the showers of the latter rain” (RH Feb. 25, 1890).

“When we have entire, wholehearted consecration to the service of Christ, God will recognize the fact by an outpouring of His Spirit without measure; but this will not be while the largest portion of the church are not laborers together with God” (CS 52).

**3**

### **Are we admonished to earnestly pray for the descent of the latter rain?**

“We should pray as earnestly for the descent of the Holy Spirit as the disciples prayed on the Day of Pentecost. If they needed it at that time, we need it more today. ... Without the Spirit and power of God it will be in vain that we labor to present the truth” (5T 158).

“The measure of the Holy Spirit we receive will be proportioned to the measure of our desire and the faith exercised for it, and the use we shall make of the light and knowledge that shall be given to us” (RH May 5, 1896).

**Note:** We need to earnestly pray for the gift of the Holy Spirit. “The Lord wants us to trouble Him in this matter. He wants us to press our petitions to the throne” (FE 537).

**4**

### **What prevents an individual from sharing the “refreshing”? How can one clear the way to receive the latter rain?**

“I saw that none could share the ‘refreshing’ unless they obtain the victory over every besetment, over pride, selfishness, love of the world, and over every wrong word and action. We should, therefore, be drawing nearer and nearer to the Lord and be earnestly seeking that preparation necessary to enable us to stand in the battle in the day of the Lord. Let all remember that God is holy and that none but holy beings can ever dwell in His presence” (EW 71).

“The refreshing or power of God comes only on those who have prepared themselves for it by doing the work which God bids them, namely, cleansing themselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God” (1T 619).

**Note:** We cooperate with Jesus in having Him show us the defects in our characters (wrong behaviors, thoughts, feelings, inclinations, impulses and attitudes). Then we ask Him to cleanse and blot out our sins, thus preparing the

way for the latter rain to fill our empty vessels. Then indeed, it will be seen that Daniel 8:14—the cleansing of our soul temples—is not a heavenly audit conducted by Jesus in our absence, but a living reality in our lives.

“There is nothing that Satan fears so much as that the people of God shall clear the way by removing every hindrance, so that the Lord can pour out His Spirit upon a languishing church and an impenitent congregation. If Satan had his way, there would never be another awakening, great or small, to the end of time. ... When the way is prepared for the Spirit of God, the blessing will come. Satan can no more hinder a shower of blessing from descending upon God’s people than he can close the windows of heaven that rain cannot come upon the earth” (1SM 124, emphasis supplied).

5

### **Why is the reception of the early rain a prerequisite to receiving the latter rain?**

“For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head. But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come” (Mark 4:28, 29).

“There must be a constant development of Christian virtue, a constant advancement in Christian experience. This we should seek with intensity of desire. ... It is God who began the work, and He will finish His work, making man complete in Jesus Christ. But there must be no neglect of the grace represented by the former rain. Only those who are living up to the light they have will receive greater light” (TM 506, 507).

**Note:** The early rain is given to the believer at conversion and is to be received daily in the process of sanctification. Without the early rain, there can be no latter rain experience.

When Jesus returned to heaven and entered the heavenly sanctuary, beginning His mediatorial work, there was a mighty outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. This resulted in the preaching of the gospel to the then-known world in one generation.



“The latter rain, falling near the close of the season, ripens the grain and prepares it for the sickle. . . . The ripening of the grain represents the completion of the work of God’s grace in the soul. By the power of the Holy Spirit the moral image of God is to be perfected in the character. We are to be wholly transformed into the likeness of Christ.

“But unless the former rain has fallen, there will be no life; the green blade will not spring up. Unless the early showers have done their work, the latter rain can bring no seed to perfection” (TM 506).

“We may be sure that when the Holy Spirit is poured out, those who did not receive and appreciate the early rain will not see or understand the value of the latter rain” (LDE 195).

**Note:** Christ entered the second apartment in 1844 to embark upon His final work of mediation. When the church by faith claims the benefits of His mediation in the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place, she will receive the latter rain as surely as the disciples received the early rain. The latter rain will ripen and perfect those who have been sanctified by the daily experience of grace and thus be made ready for the coming of Jesus.

6

## Through what means are God’s people to resist Satan and perfectly reflect the image of Jesus?

“Through the Scriptures the Holy Spirit speaks to the mind, and impresses truth upon the heart. Thus He exposes error, and expels it from the soul. It is by the Spirit of truth, working through the word of God, that Christ subdues His chosen people to Himself” (DA 671).

“The Holy Spirit was the highest of all gifts that He could solicit from His Father for the exaltation of His people. The Spirit was to be given as a regenerating agent, and without this the sacrifice of Christ would have been of no avail. . . . *Sin could be resisted and overcome only through the mighty agency of the Third Person of the Godhead, who would come with no modified energy, but in the fullness of divine power. It is the Spirit that makes effectual what has been wrought out by the world’s Redeemer. It is by the Spirit that the heart is made pure. Through the Spirit the believer becomes a partaker of the divine nature. Christ has*

*given His Spirit as a divine power to overcome all hereditary and cultivated tendencies to evil, and to impress His own character upon His church”* (DA 671, emphasis supplied).

“This Comforter is the Holy Spirit—the soul of His life, the efficacy of His church, the light and life of the world. With His Spirit, *Christ sends a reconciling influence and a power to take away sin*” (TDG 257, emphasis supplied).

**Note:** It is through the power of the Word of God that we are transformed. The Word is the voice of God speaking to each of us, admonishing, encouraging and enlightening us. As truth replaces the lies we have once believed, as the rubble of deceptions are removed and the light of God shines into the chambers of our minds, we are re-created into the image of God. The Holy Spirit takes the truth and stamps it upon our hearts and minds; thus, the perfection of Christ’s character is reproduced in the life of the believer.

## 7

### **How are we to understand perfection of character?**

“The honor of God, the honor of Christ, is involved in the perfection of the character of His people” (DA 671).

“The more closely they view the spotless character of Christ, the stronger will be their desire to be conformed to His image, and the less will they see of purity or holiness in themselves. But while we should realize our sinful condition, we are to rely upon Christ as our righteousness, our sanctification, and our redemption. We cannot answer the charges of Satan against us. Christ alone can make an effectual plea in our behalf. He is able to silence the accuser with arguments founded not upon our merits, but on His own” (CCh 352).

**Note:** Perfection is the result of entire sanctification. The sealing takes place when this is accomplished, for it is the work of the final atonement when Jesus blots out our sins. This takes place at the end of the judgment of the living, when God's people fully reflect the character of Jesus.

## 8

### **Why will some Seventh-day Adventists not recognize the outpouring of the latter rain?**

Some possible reasons are:

1. They are waiting for the enforcement of the Sunday law before preparing to get ready to receive the latter rain.
2. They are focusing on current events and believing that this in itself will prepare them to receive the latter rain.
3. They are looking for spectacular events of healing and visual signs that everyone can see before believing that the latter rain is falling.
4. They are depending on the latter rain to do for them that which should have been accomplished in their hearts under the early rain.

“I was shown that if God’s people make no efforts on their part, but wait for the refreshing to come upon them and remove their wrongs and correct their errors; if they depend upon that to cleanse them from filthiness of the flesh and spirit, and fit them to engage in the loud cry of the third angel, they will be found wanting. *The refreshing or power of God comes only on those who have prepared themselves for it by doing the work which God bids them, namely, cleansing themselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God*” (1T 619, emphasis supplied).

5. They are depending on involvement in church activities and doing good works instead of taking time to have a deep relationship with Jesus.
6. They are not believing that it is possible to be completely victorious over every wrong word and action. They are depending on the latter rain to make up for their lack.

“Only those who are living up to the light they have will receive greater light. Unless we are daily advancing in the exemplification of the active Christian virtues, we shall not recognize the manifestations of the Holy Spirit in the latter rain. It may be falling on hearts all around us, but we shall not discern or receive it” (TM 507).

7. They are not understanding the message to Laodicea.

“Purity of heart, purity of motive, will characterize every one who is washing his robe, and making it white in the blood of the Lamb” (7BC 965).

**Note:** Not having the righteousness of Christ, the gold of faith and love, and the eye salve of spiritual discernment, Laodiceans do not know their true condition. “Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked” (Revelation 3:17).

9

## **How will the outpouring of the latter rain effect the whole world?**

“Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; But the Lord will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you. The Gentiles shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising” (Isaiah 60:1, 2).

“The love of Christ, the love of our brethren, will testify to the world that we have been with Jesus and learned of Him. Then will the message of the third angel swell to a loud cry, and the whole earth will be lightened with the glory of the Lord” (6T 401).

“John says, ‘I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory’ (Revelation 18:1). Then, as at the Pentecostal season, the people will hear the truth spoken to them, every man in his own tongue. ... Thousands of voices will be imbued with the power to speak forth the wonderful

truths of God's word. The stammering tongue will be loosed, and the timid will be made strong to bear courageous testimony to the truth" (GW 383, 384).

"The angel who unites in the proclamation of the third angel's message is to lighten the whole earth with his glory. ... The work will be similar to that of the Day of Pentecost. ... The great work of the gospel is not to close with less manifestation of the power of God than marked its opening. ... Servants of God, with their faces lighted up and shining with holy consecration, will hasten from place to place to proclaim the message from heaven. By thousands of voices, all over the earth, the warning will be given. Miracles will be wrought, the sick will be healed, and signs and wonders will follow the believers" (GC 611, 612).

"I saw the latter rain was coming as [suddenly as] the midnight cry, and with ten times the power" (SpM 4).

## **10 How will God's true people respond as the loud cry is sounded?**

"When the storm of persecution really breaks upon us, the true sheep will hear the true Shepherd's voice. Self-denying efforts will be put forth to save the lost, and many who have strayed from the fold will come back to follow the great Shepherd. The people of God will draw together and present to the enemy a united front" (6T 401).

"God will soon do great things for us, if we lie humble and believing at His feet. ... More than one thousand will soon be converted in one day, most of whom will trace their first convictions to the reading of our publications" (Ev 693).

## **11 What is the heart of God's last message?**

"The Lord in His great mercy sent a most precious message to His people through Elders Waggoner and Jones. This message was to bring more prominently before the world the uplifted Saviour, the sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. It presented justification through faith in the Surety; it invited the people to receive the righteousness of Christ, which

is made manifest in obedience to all the commandments of God. Many had lost sight of Jesus. They needed to have their eyes directed to His divine person, His merits, and His changeless love for the human family.

“All power is given into His hands, that He may dispense rich gifts unto men, imparting the priceless gift of His own righteousness to the helpless human agent. This is the message that God commanded to be given to the world. It is the third angel’s message, which is to be proclaimed with a loud voice, and attended with the outpouring of His Spirit in a large measure” (TM 91, 92).

Elder Jones in his sermons in 1888 addressed this subject of the cleansing in preparation for receiving the seal of God.

“[Some of the brethren] came here free; but the Spirit of God brought up something they never saw before. The Spirit of God went deeper than it ever went before, and revealed things they never saw before; and then, instead of thanking the Lord that that was so, and letting the whole wicked business go, and thanking the Lord that they had ever so much more of Him than they ever had before, they began to get discouraged. They said, ‘Oh what am I going to do? My sins are so great.’...

“If the Lord has brought up sins to us that we never thought of before, that only shows that He is going down to the depth, and He will reach the bottom at last; and when He finds the last thing that is unclean or impure, that is out of harmony with His will, and brings that up, and shows that to us, and we can say, ‘I would rather have the Lord than that’—then the work is complete, and the seal of the living God can be fixed upon that character” (GC Bulletin, pp. 404, 405).

“The message of Christ’s righteousness is to sound from one end of the earth to the other to prepare the way of the Lord. This is the glory of God, which closes the work of the third angel” (6T 19).

“The last rays of merciful light, the last message of mercy to be given to the world, is a revelation of His character of love. The children of God are to manifest His glory. In their own life and character they are to reveal what the grace of God has done for them” (COL 415, 416).

12

## How does the Holy Spirit prepare us to preach the last message? Do we need to worry about receiving the latter rain?

“Sin brings physical and spiritual disease and weakness. Christ has made it possible for us to free ourselves from this curse. The Lord promises, by the medium of truth, to renovate the soul. The Holy Spirit will make all who are willing to be educated able to communicate the truth with power. It will renew every organ of the body, that God’s servants may work acceptably and successfully. Vitality increases under the influence of the Spirit’s action. Let us, then, by this power lift ourselves into a higher, holier atmosphere, that we may do well our appointed work” (MM 12).

“We need not worry about the latter rain. All we have to do is to keep the vessel clean and right side up and prepared for the reception of the heavenly rain, and keep praying, ‘Let the latter rain come into my vessel. Let the light of the glorious angel which unites with the third angel shine upon me; give me a part in the work; let me sound the proclamation; let me be a colaborer with Jesus Christ.’ Thus seeking God, let me tell you, He is fitting you up all the time, giving you His grace” (UL 283).

**Note:** The latter rain, which is beginning to fall even now, is specifically designed to help God’s people understand and cooperate with Christ’s closing work in the Most Holy Place. This work includes the blotting out of sins, which prepares them to go through the time of trouble. Without this understanding, it will be impossible for His professed people to be prepared for the close of probation.

Truth is vitally important in any age of history. But now it is a matter of eternal life or death. When the devil unveils his end-time plan to capture the world into keeping Sunday—his day of rest—only those who have already been grounded in eternal truth and have received the power of the latter rain will be able to stand against this deception. Those who stand will have been sealed by truth on every point. It is truth that seals the minds and hearts of God’s faithful ones so that they would rather die than sin. Only these will survive during the time of trouble, because sin (disagreement with God) will have been eradicated completely from their minds, and they will be blameless before Him.

**Note:** The 144,000 will wear white robes and carry palm branches, which symbolize their victory over the world, the flesh, and the devil. They are free from any and every lie and deception of the enemy. They are completely cleansed and blameless before the all-knowing, all-searching eyes of the Father and the Son, as they search their beloved, chosen ones through and through at Christ's coming. They will welcome us into the eternal joys and happiness of heaven where sin and disagreement with God will never rise again.

### **Your Commitment to Jesus**

It is clear to me that we are living in the time of the latter rain. I desire to accept the call of Jesus to be among His faithful witnesses who are preparing to receive the full outpouring of the latter rain, in order to sound earth's final warning.

**Your Response** \_\_\_\_\_



# Notes



## Key to Abbreviations of E. G. White Book Titles

CCh.....	<i>Counsels for the Church</i>
COL .....	<i>Christ's Object Lessons</i>
CS.....	<i>Counsels on Stewardship</i>
DA.....	<i>The Desire of Ages</i>
Ev .....	<i>Evangelism</i>
EW .....	<i>Early Writings</i>
FE .....	<i>Fundamentals of Christian Education</i>
GC.....	<i>The Great Controversy</i>
GC Bulletin ....	<i>General Conference Bulletin</i>
GW.....	<i>Gospel Workers</i>
LDE .....	<i>Last Day Events</i>
MM.....	<i>Medical Ministry</i>
RH.....	<i>The Review and Herald Periodical</i>
SpM .....	<i>Spalding and Magan Collection</i>
TDG .....	<i>This Day with God</i>
TM.....	<i>Testimonies to Ministers</i>
UL .....	<i>Upward Look</i>
7BC .....	<i>The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, Volume 7</i>
1SM .....	<i>Selected Messages, Book 1</i>
1T.....	<i>Testimonies for the Church, Volume 1</i>
5T .....	<i>Testimonies for the Church, Volume 5</i>
6T .....	<i>Testimonies for the Church, Volume 6</i>
8T.....	<i>Testimonies for the Church, Volume 8</i>

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

**This Study Guide is number eight 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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