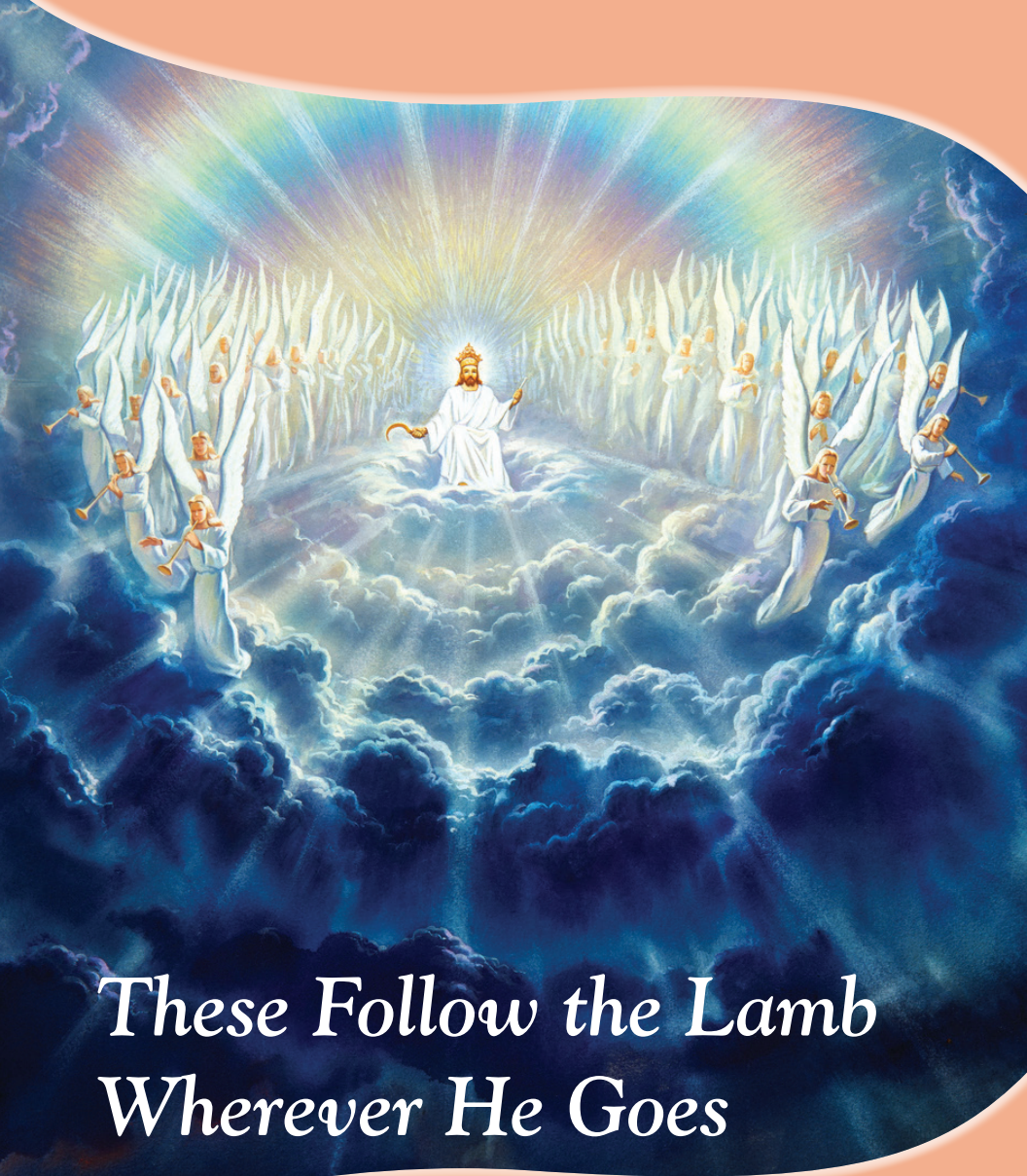


“Prepare to Meet Thy God!”



*These Follow the Lamb
Wherever He Goes*

**Who Can Stand?
Study Guide**

9

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Introduction



The 144,000 have followed their precious Lord and Savior throughout the darkest period of earth's history—a time when rebellion and revolt reached its zenith. Satan had been given control

of the planet and took the opportunity to demonstrate his rule of government. The law of God was made of none effect as the laws of the land were inspired by the evil one himself. The masses of wicked ones had arrayed themselves against the God of heaven and manifested their hatred by seeking to destroy God's beloved people. Satan was not successful, for Jesus sent a double guard of angels to protect them. The enemy could not touch His people, for they were safe under the shelter of His wings (see Psalm 91).

Now the 144,000 are standing on the sea of glass, singing a song such as heaven has never heard. Its music echoes and reechoes throughout the arches of heaven as its message touches the hearts of the heavenly hosts who are gathered there with them. It is a song of their experience, an experience that no one else has ever gone through. As they sing that song, tears trickle down their cheeks as they contemplate the love and protection of the Eternal One. Only now do they grasp the depth of the malignity of the evil one from which they have been saved.

Jesus had promised to come and take them home. True to His promise, He came and rescued them from this world of sin and devastation. Now they are with Him, never again to be separated from the One they learned to love and adore. They cast their beautiful crowns at His feet in adoration and worship. Throughout eternity, they will enjoy the precious privilege of entering the temple, because by faith they fully cooperated with the work and ministry of Jesus in the Most Holy Place of the heavenly sanctuary.

Even today, the Spirit and the bride are inviting you and me to come into that special relationship with Him, by cooperating in the complete cleansing of our soul temple. Will you respond to His loving entreaties to be among those who will be translated from this world, greeting Jesus when He appears?

1

Who are the only ones that will be able to stand when Jesus appears the second time?

The question is posed in Revelation 6:17, “For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?” It is then answered in chapter 7:1–4:

“After these things I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree. Then I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God. And he cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, saying, ‘Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.’ And I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred and forty-four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel were sealed.”

2

How are we to understand the four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds?

“John sees the elements of nature—earthquake, tempest, and political strife—represented as being held by four angels. These winds are under control until God gives the word to let them go. There is the safety of God’s church. The angels of God do His bidding, holding back the winds of the earth, that the winds should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree, until the servants of God should be sealed in their foreheads.

“The mighty angel is seen ascending from the east (or sunrise). This mightiest of angels has in his hand the seal of the living God, or of Him who alone can give life, who can inscribe upon the foreheads the mark or inscription, to whom shall be granted immortality, eternal life. It is the voice of this highest angel that had authority to command the four angels to keep in check the four winds until this work was performed, and until he should give the summons to let them loose” (TM 444, 445).

“I saw that the four angels would hold the four winds until Jesus’ work was done in the sanctuary, and then will come the seven last plagues” (EW 36).

3 What is the seal of God?

“All who have an interest in their soul’s salvation should earnestly and solemnly inquire, What is the seal of God? and what is the mark of the beast? How can we avoid receiving it?” (ST Nov. 1, 1899).

“The sign, or seal, of God is revealed in the observance of the seventh-day Sabbath, the Lord’s memorial of creation. ‘The Lord spake unto Moses, saying, “Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily My Sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the Lord that doth sanctify you.”’ Exodus 31:12, 13. Here the Sabbath is clearly designated as a sign between God and His people” (8T 117).

“True observance of the Sabbath is the sign of loyalty to God” (7BC 981). “The mark of the beast is the opposite of this—the observance of the first day of week. This mark distinguishes those who acknowledge the supremacy of the papal authority from those who acknowledge the authority of God” (8T 117).

“What is the seal of the living God, which is placed in the foreheads of His people? It is a mark which angels, not human eyes, can read; for the destroying angel must see this mark of redemption” (Mar 244).

4 Who will receive the seal of God?

“Those that overcome the world, the flesh, and the devil, will be the favored ones who shall receive the seal of the living God. Those whose hands are not clean, whose hearts are not pure, will not have the seal of the living God. Those who are planning sin and acting it will be passed by. Only those who, in their attitude before God, are filling the position of those who are repenting and confessing their sins in the great anti-typical day of atonement, will be recognized and marked

as worthy of God's protection. ... [They] will be numbered with those who are sealed" (TM 445).

"Are we seeking for His fullness, ever pressing toward the mark set before us—the perfection of His character? When the Lord's people reach this mark, they will be sealed in their foreheads. Filled with the Spirit, they will be complete in Christ, and the recording angel will declare, 'It is finished'" (6BC 1118).

"We should study more earnestly the character of our Saviour. We should imitate the lovely Pattern that God has given us. We should dwell upon the matchless charms of Jesus until there will be nothing satisfying in this perishing world. We should desire to reflect his image in kindness, in courtesy, in gentleness, and love, then 'when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.' In a little while every one who is a child of God will have his seal placed upon him. O that it may be placed upon our foreheads! Who can endure the thought of being passed by when the angel goes forth to seal the servants of God in their foreheads?" (RH May 28, 1889).

Note: Only those who have been purified of all sin, who honor God's holy Sabbath and have been sealed with the seal of God, will be enabled to stand in that day. Only those who are sealed are protected during this time.

5

What are the characteristics of the 144,000 that sets them apart?

"These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb" (Revelation 7:14). "These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb and in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault [blameless] before the throne of God" (Revelation 14:4, 5).

Note: The 144,000 maintain the pure doctrines of the Bible and refuse to be defiled by the errors abounding in the Christian world today. They will strive to follow Jesus every moment of every day, ever listening to that still, small voice directing them.

1. They accept all the light of preceding generations as well as the light which applies to the final generation.
2. They will be deep and diligent students of the Word, understanding and living by its principles.
3. They will strive to know Jesus personally, hear God's voice, and follow Him as sheep know and follow their shepherd.
4. They will have a high discernment between truth and error. All error must be banished from their understanding and life practices. They pursue truth at any cost and follow it.
5. They will be totally committed to Jesus, willing to go through anything to keep close to His side. They do not willingly or knowingly sin and live at a distance from Him.
6. They will cooperate with Jesus in the complete cleansing of their soul temple from all defilement, knowing that through this process, they "will reach the condition of sinlessness in which Adam lived before his transgression" (Mar 224).

6

Why are the 144,000 the only ones who are able to sing the song of Moses and the Lamb?

“They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth” (Revelation 14:3).

“These are they that stand upon Mount Zion with the Lamb, having the Father’s name written in their foreheads. They sing the new song before the throne, that song which no man can learn save the hundred and forty and four thousand which were redeemed from the earth” (PK 591).

Note: The 144,000 are the only ones who will sing the song of Moses and the Lamb because it is the song of their triumph over the beast and his image, as well as their victory over the evil one during the time of Jacob’s trouble. Their lives are representative of the whole human race. In other words, the saved of all ages would have reached the same level of perfection if they would have been given all the light available to this final generation.

Christ’s blood—His perfect life, His righteous character—will be perfected in them as they walk with Him day by day, and allow Him to purify them of every thought, word, deed, or motive of sin. Then Jesus can place in them the same thoughts, words, deeds, and motives that He has, through His indwelling Holy Spirit. This is the process that is now taking place and will soon be completed. “Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give Him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and His bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear. ... ‘Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!’” (Revelation 19:6-9, NIV).

Note: Then Jesus will proclaim the awesome words before the throne of His Father, “It is done!” Can you imagine the scene in the throne room of heaven? The heavenly host will bow in profound silence, and then break out in loud and joyous songs of praise.

7 Why are the 144,000 counted as “the first fruits unto God and the Lamb”?

“These, having been translated from the earth, from among the living, are counted as ‘the first fruits unto God and to the Lamb’ [Revelation 14:4]. ‘These are they which came out of great tribulation;’ They have passed through the time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation; they have endured the anguish of the time of Jacob’s trouble; they have stood without an intercessor through the final outpouring of God’s judgments. But they have been delivered, for they have ‘washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.’ ‘In their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault’ before God. ‘Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple: and He that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.’ They have seen the earth wasted with famine and pestilence, the sun having power to scorch men with great heat, and they themselves have endured suffering, hunger, and thirst. But ‘they shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.’ Revelation 7:14–17” (GC 648).

Note: Why is the final generation of God’s people called the first fruits? It is because the whole plan of salvation is for the purpose of completely eradicating the damage that Satan and sin have caused. It means that Jesus can and must display His ability to completely restore us, despite our inherited tendencies to sin which have been manifested in every child since Adam.

Jesus, as the second Adam, is demonstrating His ability and authority over the evil one. He is doing this by rescuing the human race from the depths of sin, restoring them to the loving, willing obedience of Adam and Eve before they fell. If Jesus cannot do this, then Satan would claim that his power of rebellion and sin is greater than God’s power of love and re-creation. Thus, we can see how imperative it is for love to win the battle for the allegiance of men’s hearts to willing, intelligent obedience to the covenant of His love (Deuteronomy 7:9, 12), which is His law, the standard of eternal life.

8

How does Scripture describe “the remnant”?

“The remnant of Israel shall do no unrighteousness and speak no lies, nor shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth” (Zephaniah 3:13).

“He who is left in Zion and remains in Jerusalem will be called holy—everyone who is recorded among the living in Jerusalem” (Isaiah 4:3).

“Christ ... also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish” (Ephesians 5:25–27).

“Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it” (1 Thessalonians 5:23, 24).

“John saw a Lamb on Mount Zion, and with Him 144,000 having His Father’s name written in their foreheads. They bore the signet of heaven. They reflected the image of God. They were full of the light and the glory of the Holy One. If we would have the image and superscription of God upon us, we must separate ourselves from all iniquity. We must forsake every evil way, and then we must trust our cases in the hands of Christ” (7BC 977).

9

Why has it taken 6,000 years to produce a finished product of grace?

The 144,000 are not more dedicated to God than other generations, however, this group “will walk in [all] the light proceeding from the throne of God” (9T 16) in their generation, thus becoming God’s finished product of grace.

The sin problem is deep, persuasive and compelling. Satan appeals to the fleshly feelings and emotional needs, and he promises to fulfill our human desires. He endeavors to do this through connecting his mind with ours, thus destroying our connection with God, and thwarting our obedience to His law.

Note: After listening to the temptation of the evil one, the human mind became scarred and bent toward evil and self-protection. This was passed on to every generation and without a direct connection with Jesus, no one can withstand the bent, desires, thoughts and feelings of their fallen nature in their own strength. Furthermore, children are the lawful prey of the evil one from birth, because they have not yet had the opportunity to personally know Jesus and choose His ways. This is the reason it has taken 6,000 years to reclaim the human race from the clutches of the evil one. Each generation must learn for themselves that the wages of sin is eternal death.

10 What is the difference between the great multitude and the 144,000, mentioned in Revelation 7?

The 144,000 and the great multitude are two distinct groups of people. One group is numbered [a symbolic number] and the second group, the great multitude, cannot be numbered. It is my belief that the 144,000 represent a symbolic number of those who are the finished product of grace, however, there are those who believe that the 144,000 may be a literal number. Both views have their merit.

The 144,000 are the final, cleansed remnant, which are the result of Christ's intercessory work in the heavenly sanctuary, and a demonstration to the universe of what the blood of Jesus can and must do to produce a completely victorious people. Without this final remnant, the 144,000, the great controversy between Christ and Satan cannot come to an end.

Note: All those who are alive when Jesus returns will have reached the same degree of spiritual development. They will be blameless before God and will be living without an intercessor during the great time of trouble.

As mentioned previously, the 144,000 are the finished product of grace. The plan of salvation anticipating man's complete freedom from sin has been realized. The 144,000 will display to the universe that the sacrifice

and ministry of Jesus have been totally efficacious to conquer every lie of the enemy and to free the human agents from every vestige of sin. The 144,000 are those who have walked in all the light proceeding from the throne of God. They hear the voice of God which announces the coming of Jesus. How heaven rejoices!

“The living saints, 144,000 in number, knew and understood the voice, while the wicked thought it was thunder and an earthquake. When God spoke the time, He poured upon us the Holy Ghost, and our faces began to light up and shine with the glory of God, as Moses’ did when he came down from Mount Sinai. The 144,000 were all sealed and perfectly united” (CCh 33). Note that the great multitude is not mentioned here.

“The 144,000 triumphed. Their faces were lighted up with the glory of God” (EW 37).

On the other hand, the great multitude which no man can number represents the righteous of all ages, because in every case, they have lived up to all the light revealed to them in their generation. As we know, under the latter rain, many precious souls will accept the message that is being preached. Some of those will become part of the 144,000 and will have to learn very quickly what has taken us years to learn.

“Some of us have had time to get the truth and to advance step by step, and every step we have taken has given us strength to take the next. But now time is almost finished, and what we have been years learning, they will have to learn in a few months. They will also have much to unlearn and much to learn again” (EW 67).

Others, who will come into the remnant church during the loud cry, will be laid to rest because when probation closes, and Jesus leaves the Most Holy Place, He has completed His intercessory work on man’s behalf and His blood no longer covers confessed sins.

Ellen G. White admonishes us, “It is not His will that they shall get into controversy over questions which will not help them spiritually, such as, who is to compose the hundred and forty-four thousand. Those who are the elect of God will in a short time know without question” (7BC 978).

11

Why are the 144,000 honored and singled out above the great multitude?

“Why were they [the 144,000] so specially singled out? Because they had to stand with a wonderful truth right before the whole world, and receive their opposition, and while receiving this opposition they were to remember that they were sons and daughters of God, that they must have Christ formed within them the hope of glory. They were ever keeping in view the great and blessed hope that is before them. What is it? It is an eternal weight of glory. Nothing could surpass it” (1SAT 72, 73).

1. They obtained the victory over the beast and his image (see Revelation 15:2).

“By this time the 144,000 were all sealed and perfectly united. On their foreheads was written, God, New Jerusalem, and a glorious star containing Jesus’ new name” (WLF 14).

2. They are a special company who were translated without seeing death (see GC 648, 649).
3. They are the only ones privileged to enter the temple located on Mt. Zion.

“As we were about to enter the holy temple, Jesus raised His lovely voice and said, ‘Only the 144,000 enter this place,’ and we shouted, ‘Alleluia.’

“This temple was supported by seven pillars, all of transparent gold, set with pearls most glorious. The wonderful things I there saw I cannot describe. Oh, that I could talk in the language of Canaan, then could I tell a little of the glory of the better world. I saw there tables of stone in which the names of the 144,000 were engraved in letters of gold” (EW 19).

Note: In heaven, it will be a great honor to be among the 144,000, because they will have overcome the root of all sin, which is self-preservation. As Jesus struggled to the point of death in the garden of Gethsemane and on the cross, likewise, they have struggled to the point of victory over all sin. In all our struggles, Jesus will be right there beside us. He trod the way first and overcame the desire to escape from death, in order to provide the pathway of victory for you and me. If we are fellowshipping with Him through this experience, Jesus will help us to come to the place where we would rather die than commit sin. Only those who are willing to die to self, being victorious over every sin, will be among those translated without seeing death.

12 Why are those who are sealed “sighing and crying”?

“The people of God are sighing and crying for the abominations done in the land. With tears they warn the wicked of their danger in trampling upon the divine law, and with unutterable sorrow they humble themselves before the Lord on account of their own transgressions” (5T 474).

“The little company who are standing in the light will be sighing and crying for the abominations that are done in the land. But more especially will their prayers arise in behalf of the church because its members are doing after the manner of the world” (5T 209, 210).

“In the time when His wrath shall go forth in judgments, these humble, devoted followers of Christ will be distinguished from the rest of the world by their soul anguish, which is expressed in lamentation and weeping, reproofs and warnings. ... They lament and afflict their souls because pride, avarice, selfishness, and deception of almost every kind are in the church” (5T 210).

Note: Their “sighing and crying” is not criticism, but heartfelt concern and earnest prayers which ascend to God for the salvation of His people and themselves. God’s faithful people today are preparing the world for the second coming of Jesus and are a “voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord’” (Matthew 3:3). The “sighing and crying” includes the preaching of present truth in the power of the Holy Spirit.

13

Who was a representative of those who will be translated to heaven without seeing death?

“And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him” (Genesis 1:24).

“Enoch walked with God three hundred years previous to his translation to heaven, and the state of the world was not then more favorable for the perfection of Christian character than it is today. And how did Enoch walk with God? He educated his mind and heart to ever feel that he was in the presence of God, and when in perplexity his prayers would ascend to God to keep him.

“He refused to take any course that would offend his God. He kept the Lord continually before him. He would pray, ‘Teach me Thy way, that I may not err. What is Thy pleasure concerning me? What shall I do to honor Thee, my God?’ Thus he was constantly shaping his way and course in accordance with God’s commandments, and he had perfect confidence and trust in his heavenly Father, that He would help him. He had no thought or will of his own. It was all submerged in the will of his Father.

“Now Enoch was a representative of those who will be upon the earth when Christ shall come, who will be translated to heaven without seeing death” (LDE 71).

“It was his devotion to God that fitted him for translation” (RH April 15, 1909).

14

Why does God need the 144,000 to be the second witness in order to bring an end to the reign of sin?

“At the mouth of two witnesses, or three witnesses, shall he that is worthy of death be put to death; but at the mouth of one witness he shall not be put to death” (Deuteronomy 17:6).

“One witness is not enough to convict a man accused of any crime or offense he may have committed. A matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.” Deuteronomy 19:15. (See also Matthew 18:16; 2 Corinthians 13:1.)

By God’s own laws, Jesus cannot destroy the wicked in the fires that will consume and cleanse the world at the end of the thousand years (Revelation 20:7–10) unless He has a second witness that will prove the efficacy of His completed plan of salvation. The cleansed remnant, the finished product of His ministry, will prove before the universe that the blood of Jesus can save to the uttermost all who come to Him in faith, believing in His power to destroy the works of the devil in their lives.

Note: Jesus’ perfect life and victory over the devil is the first witness, and His cleansed bride is the second witness. They are the finished product of the cleansing work of Jesus in the judgment that is referred to in the first angel’s message, and they are the ones who preach the final judgments of the second and third angels’ messages.

15

What is the final appeal of Jesus to this generation?

Jesus is saying to you and me: “Will you accept My invitation today to walk with Me and become a finished product of My sacrifice and My intercessory work for you? Are you willing to be that second witness to my perfection of character?”

“Come to Me and be healed of all the damage the devil has done to you, and I will heal you completely. I will wipe away your tears and take

away your fears. I also will silence the accusing voice of the evil one, who has taken you down into the darkness because of his lies. I am looking forward to walking together with you today and every day until I come and take you home. Take My hand, and I will walk with you as I did with Enoch.”

Note: Jesus is inviting us to respond to the constraints of His love and cooperate with Him while there is still time. Since He has loved us with an everlasting love, He requires a heart of devotion and faithfulness to Him. He now asks us to surrender ourselves completely to Him, be cleansed of every sin and relinquish all sympathy with the evil one. We must allow Jesus to fill us with His Spirit of love and faithfulness. If so, we will soon be with Him to sit on His throne as His beloved bride!

Jesus invites you to listen to His voice today and every day, for He is calling you to be among the 144,000. He is longing for you to respond to His love, which is demonstrated in keeping His commandments. If you truly love Him, you will not find His requirements burdensome but rather a delight and joy. His commandments are the terms of His covenant of love. Will you accept the terms of His marriage vows and completely renounce all agreement with His enemy? If you do, your reward will be great for all eternity, and you and your children will be saved.

Your Commitment to Jesus

I choose to listen to His voice today and respond to the invitation of Jesus to be among the 144,000, vindicating His name before the universe. I am looking forward to seeing Jesus come in the clouds of glory.

Your Response _____

Key to Abbreviations of E. G. White Book Titles

- CCh..... *Counsels for the Church*
- EW *Early Writings*
- GC..... *The Great Controversy*
- LDE *Last Day Events*
- Mar *Maranatha*
- PK..... *Prophets and Kings*
- RH..... *The Review and Herald Periodical*
- ST *The Signs of the Times Periodical*
- TM..... *Testimonies to Ministers*
- WLF *A Word to the Little Flock*
- 6BC *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,
Volume 6*
- 7BC *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,
Volume 7*
- 1SAT..... *Sermons and Talks, Volume 1*
- 5T *Testimonies for the Church, Volume 5*
- 8T *Testimonies for the Church, Volume 8*
- 9T *Testimonies for the Church, Volume 9*

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

This Study Guide is number nine 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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