CORNERSTONECONNECTIONS
JUNE2026

Scripture Story: Revelation.
Commentary: *The Acts of the Apostles* (or *Unlikely Leaders*), chapter 57.

forever faithful



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keytext

"Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near."

(Revelation 1:3, NIV)

flashlight

"Let none think, because they cannot explain the meaning of every symbol in the Revelation, that it is useless for them to search this book in an effort to know the meaning of the truth it contains. The One who revealed these mysteries to John will give to the diligent searcher for truth a foretaste of heavenly things. Those whose hearts are open to the reception of truth will be enabled to understand its teachings, and will be granted the blessing promised to those who 'hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein'" (*The Acts of the Apostles,* pp. 584, 585).

what do you think?

Either/Or

- I believe God blesses people today with the gift of prophecy in the same way that He blessed John with the gift of prophecy when he wrote Revelation. OR I believe John had a unique gift of prophecy and no one has been blessed in the same way since.
- The book of Revelation is primarily about Jesus. OR The book of Revelation is primarily about prophecy.
- The message delivered to the seven churches of Asia in the book of Revelation was more positive than negative. OR The message delivered to the seven churches of Asia in the book of Revelation was more negative than positive.
- According to Revelation, the Seventh-day Adventist Church is the remnant church. OR According to Revelation, the remnant church is comprised of Christ's followers—regardless of denomination—who keep God's commandments and have the testimony of Jesus..

did you know?

In exiling John, the enemies of truth had hoped to silence forever the voice of God's faithful witness; but on Patmos the disciple received a message, the influence of which was to continue to strengthen the church till the end of time. Though not released from the responsibility of their wrong act, those who banished John became instruments in the hands of God to carry out Heaven's purpose; and the very effort to extinguish the light placed the truth in bold relief."—Ellen G. White, *The Acts of the Apostles,* p. 581.

INTO THE STORY

"The revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, who testifies to everything he saw—that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near. . . .

"'I am the Alpha and the Omega,' says the Lord God, 'who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.'

"I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, which said: 'Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea.'

"Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to wage war against the rest of her offspring—those who keep God's commands and hold fast their testimony about Jesus."

"Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language and people. He said in a loud voice, 'Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water.'

"A second angel followed and said, ' "Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great," which made all the nations drink the maddening wine of her adulteries.'

"A third angel followed them and said in a loud voice: 'If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives its mark on their forehead or on their hand, they, too, will drink the wine of God's fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. They will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment will rise for ever and ever. There will be no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and its image, or for anyone who receives the mark of its name.' This calls for patient endurance on the part of the people of God who keep his commands and remain faithful to Jesus."

"At this I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, 'Don't do that! I am a fellow servant with you

and with your brothers and sisters who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For it is the Spirit of prophecy who bears testimony to Jesus.'"

(Revelation 1:1-11; Revelation 12:17; Revelation 14:6-12; Revelation 19:10, NIV)

OUT OF THE STORY

Read the passages in the Into the Story *section and then reflect on this statement by Pastor Morris Venden:*

"[There is] one unique doctrine of [the Seventh-day Adventist] church. There are other people who believe the Sabbath truth and have held on to that truth for years. There are others who believe the same way we do on the condition of man in death. There are others who accept the gift of prophecy, and there are many, many people, of almost every denomination, who believe in the second coming of Christ. Our only unique contribution to the religious world has been the three angels' messages and the connection they made for us with the sanctuary and judgment teaching."[1]

Questions to consider:

- What is at the heart of the three angels' messages?

_____
_____
_____

- How does your local church do at proclaiming the three angels' messages of Revelation 14?

_____
_____
_____

- How do these messages affect how we live?

_____
_____
_____

- What would my life look like if I were to apply these messages to my life?

_____
_____
_____

punch lines

"If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing" **(1 Corinthians 13:1, 2, NIV).**

"Though the number of the Israelites be like the sand by the sea, only the remnant will be saved" **(Romans 9:27, NIV).**

"So too, at the present time there is a remnant chosen by grace" **(Romans 11:5, NIV).**

"And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come" **(Matthew 24:14, NIV).**

"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin" **(1 John 1:7, NIV).**

further insight

"In comparison with the millions of the world, God's people will be, as they have ever been, a little flock; but if they stand for the truth as revealed in His word, God will be their refuge."—Ellen G. White, *The Acts of the Apostles,* p. 590

Sabbath

Read John 16:1, 2.

Review the *What Do You Think?* section. Notice how the either/or statements are based on major themes from the book of Revelation. Next to each of these themes listed below, write a few words that summarize what you believe the book of Revelation teaches on each theme.

Gift of prophecy _____
Jesus _____
Church _____
Remnant and its mission _____

Sunday

Read Revelation 12:17.

What is the meaning of the "testimony" or "witness of Jesus Christ"? "In the Greek this phrase may be understood either as the 'testimony' (or 'witness') Christians bear concerning Jesus or as the 'testimony' (or 'witness') that originates with Jesus and is revealed to His church through the prophets (see on ch. 1:2). In Revelation 19:10 the 'testimony of Jesus' is defined as the 'spirit of prophecy.'

"Since it is the distinctive work of the prophets to bear messages from Jesus to the people, the interpretation that the testimony of Jesus refers to the 'testimony,' or 'witness,' that Jesus bears to the church is strongly supported. Seventh-day Adventists thus interpret the passage and believe that the 'remnant' will be distinguished by the manifestation of the gift of prophecy in their midst."—*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* vol. 7, p. 812.

Monday

Read Revelation 1:3.

Read the *Key Text* then explain the difference between *reading* the words of prophecy, *hearing* the words, and *taking the words to heart*.

Reading: _____
Hearing: _____
Taking to heart: _____

Tuesday

Read 1 John 1:7.

Have you ever been intimidated by the book of Revelation? Why or why not?

What do you think Ellen White meant when she said it is possible to experience a "foretaste of heavenly things"?

What blessings would you like most from your study of Revelation?

Wednesday

After each text in the *Punch Lines* section, write what you think it has to say about the Seventh-day Adventist Church and its mission:

Romans 11:5 _____
Romans 9:27 _____
Matthew 24:14 _____
1 John 1:7 _____
1 Corinthians 13:1, 2 _____

Thursday

Read Romans 9:27.

What difference does it make to me today whether or not I am part of God's remnant people? Did it make a difference in Noah's day?

How does the belief that you belong to God's remnant affect your spending habits? hobbies? choice of entertainment? friendships with nonbelievers? understanding of God?

Friday

Read Matthew 24:14.

Should God's remnant followers today:

- Stick to ourselves—and stay out of the world?
- Get in the world and live like the world?
- Maintain the purity of the remnant while interacting with others in the world in a quest to keep learning more about God and His remnant?

Explain your position:

_____
_____
_____
_____

_____

[1] Morris Venden, *The Pillars* (Mountain View, Calif.: Pacific Press Pub. Assn., 1982), p. 32.

this week's reading*

The Acts of the Apostles (or *Unlikely Leaders*), chapter 57.

**Unlikely Leaders* is a special adaptation of *The Acts of the Apostles,* created for you by the Ellen G. White Estate and Pacific Press. Get more information about it at www.cornerstoneconnections.net/article/191/about-us/conflict-of-the-ages-companion-books#.URlhF1rBO9s. By following the weekly reading plan, you will read at least one book of the Conflict of the Ages Series each year.