CORNERSTONE CONNECTIONS

SEPTEMBER 12 2026

Scripture Story: Revelation 14:6-8; Matthew 25:1-13.
Commentary: *The Great Controversy* (or *Love Under Fire*), chapters 21, 22.

final warning!



Photo by Colleen Cahill

flashlight

"'In all my labors,' said Miller, 'I never had the desire or thought to establish any separate interest from that of existing denominations, or to benefit one at the expense of another. I thought to benefit all. . . . My whole object was a desire to convert souls to God, to notify the world of a coming judgment, and to induce my fellow men to make that preparation of heart which will enable them to meet their God in peace'" (*The Great Controversy,* p. 375).

key text

"And another angel followed, saying, 'Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.'"

(Revelation 14:8, NKJV)

what do you think?

Which of the following warnings are you MOST likely to believe and do something about? Place a 1 by the warning you'd most likely believe and so on until you get to the warning that you're MOST likely to disregard.

____ The government issues a terror alert telling everyone to avoid using public transportation.

____ Officials at your school are advising all students to get flu shots.

____ A friend tells you to get ready for Jesus' soon return.

____ Your mom encourages you to wear your seat belt in the car.

____ Your math teacher warns all students to study hard for the math final exam.

____ A bully at your school threatens to hurt you after school.

____ Weather reports say that a hurricane is headed your way.

____ A radio preacher warns people to prepare for the end of the world in May 2027.

did you know?

Did you know that on October 22, 1844, thousands of people across the United States gathered together awaiting the second coming of Jesus on that date? These believers, led by the preaching of a Baptist minister named William Miller and close study of the prophecies of Daniel and the book of Revelation, placed their faith where everyone could see it. They sold their possessions, renounced the world, and prepared to meet their God. They were wrong on the date of Jesus' second coming, but their Spirit-led love for the Second Coming helped birth the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

INTO THE STORY

The Bride and Her Groom

"Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept.

"And at midnight a cry was heard: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!' Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise answered, saying, 'No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.' And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut.

"Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.' Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming."

Warning! Warning!

"Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—saying with a loud voice, 'Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.'

"And another angel followed, saying, 'Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.'"

(Matthew 25:1-13; Revelation 14:6-8, NKJV)



OUT OF THE STORY

Circle the parts of the Scripture story that are new to you, the concepts you've never heard before.

The first part of the Scripture story for this week is a parable told by Jesus. Whom was Jesus speaking to?

The wise virgins prepared for the coming of the bridegroom. What did they do to prepare?

How are you preparing for the coming of our Bridegroom, Jesus Christ?

What can be learned from the foolish virgins?

Sum up the message of this parable in your own words. What was He trying to say?

The second part of the Scripture story gives two solemn warnings to the world by God's angels. What is the message given by the second angel? What do you think that message means?

punch lines

"Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect" **(Matthew 24:44, NKJV).**

"Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city" **(Revelation 22:14, NKJV).**

"Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready" **(Revelation 19:7, NKJV).**

"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man's all. For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil" **(Ecclesiastes 12:13, 14, NKJV).**

"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose" **(Romans 8:28, NKJV).**

further insight

"If God's professed people would receive the light as it shines upon them from His Word, they would reach that unity for which Christ prayed."

—Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy,* p. 379

Sabbath

Read Matthew 26:64; Matthew 24:36.

Take a moment to complete the *What Do You Think?* activity. Each day we receive several warnings. Some are fairly harmless—nothing to lose a kidney over—but others are deathly serious. In this week's lesson we will examine one of the final warnings that God is giving humanity before He returns, and how humanity has responded.

What did Jesus say about His return to earth?

_____

What did Jesus say about the time when He would return?

_____

Why was Jesus so specific about His return?

_____

Sunday

Read Romans 1:16, 17.

Read the *Into the Story* section of this week's lesson and answer the *Out of the Story* questions.

If being prepared for the coming of the Bridegroom (i.e., Jesus Christ) is important enough for Jesus to share with His disciples, shouldn't we take its message to the world?

Are you comfortable sharing this message with friends who are not Adventist?

Think about how living our faith every day fits with our Bible reading for today.

Monday

Read Revelation 14:6-8.

This week's *Key Text* represents one of the most important messages ever sent by God to fallen humanity. It is part of the handful of core truths that define Seventh-day Adventist Christians. The first of the three angels' messages is to fear God—that is, respect God and worship Him alone. The second message of warning—our focus this week—is Babylon is fallen.

While the disciple John was imprisoned on the Isle of Patmos, Jesus revealed to Him events that would precede the end of the world and His second coming. One of the messages Jesus gave John is found in the second part of this week's Scripture story.

What warning is Jesus sending in verse 8?

_____

In the Bible, the word "Babylon" is used to represent the world's system of sin, corruption, and confusion. According to Revelation 14:8, why is the world's system fallen?

_____

Who do you think should warn the world of God's judgment?

_____

Will everyone accept God's warning? Why not?

_____

Tuesday

Read Mark 13:22.

Read this week's *Flashlight* quotation from Ellen G. White. The words you just read were spoken by William Miller, a Baptist minister who in the mid-nineteenth century traveled throughout the United States preaching about the second coming of Jesus.

Some of his followers set a date for Christ's coming back then—October 22, 1844. Sadly, they were wrong. Once the day passed, many who were led to Christ returned to their lives, rejecting the warning of God's impending judgment.

What is the difference between someone like William Miller and the people spoken about by Jesus?

_____

_____

Wednesday

Read this week's *Punch Lines*, all of which share important scriptural messages for those preparing to meet Jesus when He returns.

Briefly share what you would've done if you had been a follower of William Miller and lived through the Great Disappointment. Would you continue to believe in God? Explain.

Thursday

Read Luke 12:8.

Based on what you've learned from this week's Scripture story about preparing for the second coming of Jesus and sharing with the world God's final warning to come out of Babylon, share one thing that you'd like to do to help the following people get ready to meet God.

1. Your family: _____
2. Your best friend: _____
3. Your neighbors: _____

Friday

Read Ecclesiastes 12:13, 14.

Does the fact that people might ridicule or belittle your beliefs prevent you from sharing them? If you really believed that Jesus was coming soon, what would you change about the way you live your life?

this week's reading*

The Great Controversy (or *Love Under Fire),* chapters 21, 22.

**Love Under Fire* is a special adaptation of *The Great Controversy*, created for you by the Ellen G. White Estate and Pacific Press. Get more information about it at http://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.