CORNERSTONECONNECTIONS
SEPTEMBER 12 2026

final warning!

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

PREPARING TO TEACH

I. SYNOPSIS

In the early to middle nineteenth century, a wind began blowing across America and other nations around the world. A Holy Ghost-filled Baptist preacher named William Miller traveled around the nation warning men and women about the coming judgment of God and urging them to make preparation to meet their God in peace.

The early Advent movement, as it became known, came to a crescendo on October 22, 1844, when believers waited in homes and hillsides for the advent of the Savior. They had sold everything, searched their hearts, confessed and forsook sin, and made things right with anyone with whom they had had disagreement. They also proclaimed a "Behold the Bridegroom cometh" message of warning to their family, neighbors, friends, and strangers, urging them to prepare to meet God. To their great dismay, Jesus did not come as they had thought, and many lost their faith.

Those who persevered in studying Bible prophecy were led to see that in 1844 Christ moved from the holy place in the heavenly sanctuary to the Most Holy Place, thus initiating the cleansing of the heavenly sanctuary and beginning the investigative judgment. The early Advent believers missed this truth, but their work to warn the world was led by God and their attention to Bible prophecy was admirable!

This week your students should leave knowing that, like the Millerites and early Adventists, we have been entrusted by God with a message of warning outlining the world's failed system of confusion (Revelation 14:8). Inherent in this message is a call to repentance and preparation to meet God. This is part of the message that God's remnant end-time church will proclaim. As was the case during the time of William Miller, many will hear the call of God and give their hearts to Christ, but many others will choose to hear the call of the world and its prince, Satan. In the face of these challenges, we must not waver or shrink. Jesus is soon to come, and we must do our work to help prepare people to meet God!

II. TARGET

The students will:

- Know that God's remnant people are called to give a message of warning to the world. *(Know)*
- Understand that God will give His people power to proclaim this message as He did William Miller and his followers. *(Feel)*
- Accept the challenge to share the love of Jesus and God's solemn warnings with their family, friends, and neighbors. *(Respond)*

III. EXPLORE

The Remnant and Its Mission, Seventh-day Adventist Fundamental Beliefs, No. 13

"The universal church is composed of all who truly believe in Christ, but in the last days, . . . a remnant has been called out to keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus" (Dan. 7:9-14; Isa. 1:9; 11:11; Jer. 23:3; Mic. 2:12; 2 Cor. 5:10; 1 Peter 1:16-19; 4:17; 2 Peter 3:10-14; Jude 3, 14; Rev. 12:17; 14:6-12; 18:1-4).

TEACHING

I. GETTING STARTED

Activity

Refer the students to the What Do You Think? *section of their lesson. After they have completed it, discuss their responses.*

In the course of a typical day, we see many different warnings. Signs warn us to drive at certain speeds, avoid dangerous substances, and dress appropriately for the weather—and that short list doesn't include the numerous threat-level warnings we receive in the age of terror.

Many of us become accustomed to warnings, so much so that we filter out those that we think are unimportant or that have no direct bearing on our lives. This is the climate in which God's remnant church is called to share the love of Jesus and warn men and women about the judgment to come. The objective of this activity is to examine how students prioritize the warnings they receive from day to day. Which ones do they pay attention to and which do they file away in the back of their mind?

Illustration

Share this illustration in your own words:

On August 6, 2001, the leaders of the United States intelligence services gathered in the office of then-President George W. Bush for the presidential daily briefing. Each day the president of the United States receives an important briefing on threat developments that have the potential to affect the nation's national security.

On August 6, 2001, that morning's presidential daily briefing was titled "Bin Laden Determined to Strike in U.S." Here's some of what it said: "Clandestine, foreign government, and media reports indicate bin Laden since 1997 has wanted to conduct terrorist attacks in the U.S. Bin Laden implied in U.S. television interviews in 1997 and 1998 that his followers would follow the example of World Trade Center bomber Ramzi Yousef and 'bring the fighting to America.'"

A few paragraphs later the report noted: "We have not been able to corroborate some of the more sensational threat reporting, such as that from a service in 1998 saying that bin Laden wanted to hijack a U.S. aircraft to gain the release of 'Blind Sheikh' Omar Abdel Rahman and other U.S.-held extremists. Nevertheless, FBI information since that time indicates patterns of suspicious activity in this country consistent with preparations for hijackings or other types of attacks, including recent surveillance of federal buildings in New York."

Many people have wondered what happened in the White House after this briefing, what happened in the days leading up to September 11, 2001. What we do know is that on that fateful day, the predicted events eclipsed their warnings.[1]

II. TEACHING THE STORY

Bridge to the Story

Share the following in your own words:

Warnings are important, some more so than others, as was the case with the September 11 tragedy. God never inflicts a punishment without first warning us about the error of our ways. In fact, the Bible says that God is "longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9, NKJV).

The Millerites, led by the Holy Spirit, set about delivering the "Midnight Cry" of God's judgment and Jesus' soon return. Many heard the call to repentance, but countless others simply disregarded it.

Out of the Story for Teachers

After you read the Into the Story *section with your students, use the following in your own words to process it with them.*

This week's *Into the Story* Scripture is one story in two parts. The parable of the ten virgins was used by Jesus to urge His disciples, then and now, to be ready for His return. Inherent in the story is the dichotomy that some will be ready and others will not. This tension is the great tension of life on earth as we await the second coming of Jesus. Some will hear the call to prepare to meet their Lord while others will not.

This parable was part of a central impetus that led the Millerites to proclaim the imminent return of Christ. The call "Behold the Bridegroom cometh. Go ye out to meet Him" was the rallying cry of the movement. The urgency with which believers in the Advent movement delivered this message was seen by the speed with which the movement caught on and swept across America. God has entrusted His last-day church with a similar message.

The Advent believers were disappointed when Jesus didn't come, just as the disciples were disap-

pointed when the Man whom they thought would save them from Roman oppression was crucified. But they completed the work given them.

The second part of *Into the Story* for this week, Revelation 14:6-8, represents part of the message that we, members of God's last-day remnant, must give.

Use the following as more teachable passages that relate to today's story: Ezekiel 12:21-28; Hebrews 10:35-39; Luke 19:40; Leviticus 16:29-34.

Sharing Context and Background

Use the following information to shed more light on the story for your students. Share it in your own words.

1. Why they set a date. Why did the Advent movement believers fixate on October 22, 1844, as the day when Christ would come? How could they overlook Scriptures that clearly state that no one, not even Jesus, knows the exact date of Christ's return (Matthew 24:36)? Ellen White comments:

"Though no man knoweth the *day* nor the *hour* of His coming, we are instructed and required to know when it is near. We are further taught that to disregard His warning, and refuse or neglect to know when His advent is near, will be as fatal for us as it was for those who lived in the days of Noah not to know when the flood was coming."[2] This was the spirit in which the Advent believers searched the Scriptures. They wanted to be keen on the time when Jesus would return, and so should we. They studied the prophecies of Daniel 7–9 and arrived at the October 1844 date. They were mistaken only in the event that would occur on that date.

Some who have no intention of changing their lives dismiss the signs of Jesus' return. To them it represents attempts at date-setting, and they use this as an excuse to reject truth.

2. What the early Advent movement missed. It is easy to laugh at the seeming naiveté of those in the Advent movement who looked for Jesus to come on October 22, 1844, but this belief was based on the Jewish sanctuary service in which the high priest would cleanse the sanctuary on the tenth day of the seventh Jewish month (Leviticus 16:29-34). The believers coupled this understanding with God's pronouncement to Daniel that in 2,300 days (years) the sanctuary would be cleansed (Daniel 8:14). This 2300-day/year period began when King Artaxerxes gave the command to rebuild Jerusalem (Daniel 9:25) in 457 B.C. Add 2,300 years to autumn 457 B.C.—counting down, of course—and you'll get the year A.D. 1843. But, remember, the sanctuary was cleansed on the tenth day of the seventh month, and since the decree to rebuild went out in the autumn of 457 B.C., the prophecy leads directly to the autumn of 1844.[3]

The tenth day of the seventh Jewish month that year fell on October 22, 1844. What the Advent believers did not know was that on this date Christ was not coming to make an end of sin and save the righteous. His role in mediating for humanity was changing. Jesus was going into the Most Holy Place to cleanse the heavenly sanctuary and His people of all sin once and for all, just as the earthly high priest would do each year. But before Jesus can complete the cleansing forever, He must examine the record of all humanity to determine who is worthy of this final work of sealing. At this

Teaching From the Lesson

Refer your students to the other sections of their lesson.

- **Key Text**
  Invite students to share the Key Text *with the class if they have committed it to memory.*
- **Flashlight**
  Read the Flashlight *statement, pointing out that most of the time it is from the commentary on this week's story found in the book* The Great Controversy. *Ask what relationship they see between the statement and what they have just discussed from* Out of the Story.
- **Punch Lines**
  Point out to your students the verses listed in their lesson that relate to this week's story. Have them share the verse that spoke most directly to them and allow them to explain why they chose it.
- **Further Insight**
  Ask them how the quote in Further Insight *conveys the point of the story in this lesson.*

Tips for Top-Notch Teaching

RABBI 101

Great Expectations

One of the proven ways to interest teens in any kind of subject matter is to share what they can expect to gain from the time they spend in class. If this information is shared in a positive, energetic, and creative way, teens will pay attention.

Teens coming to this study can expect to learn how to keep believing in God when He seems to fail them. Perhaps one way to share this truth is to share the following in your own words: *Today is one of the most important days of your life, because today you will learn what to do when your hopes and dreams fail, when people you've counted on let you down, when God seems to fail you.*

time some will be sealed, while others will be marked. This investigative judgment began with the cleansing of the heavenly sanctuary on October 22, 1844.

3. The Remnant. God has always had a remnant group of people who remain faithful to Him through wars, calamities, privation, and loss. When Israel went into Assyrian and Babylonian exile, a remnant remained faithful to God. After the death of Jesus, a remnant waited for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in Jerusalem. After the persecution of the 1260-year period of the Dark Ages, a remnant group of believers protested the corruption in the Roman Church and cast it off. The early Protestants were part of God's remnant. But the Protestants stagnated in their work of reformation, holding on to beliefs that were not biblical. From among them God called a remnant to proclaim a clear end-time message to a doomed planet. Seventh-day Adventists are a part of that remnant.

What is the remnant's mission today? The book of Revelation clearly states that it is to proclaim the three angels' messages of Revelation 14:6-12, which will bring a "full and final restoration of the gospel truth."[4]

III. CLOSING

Activity

Close with an activity and debrief it in your own words.

Say a prayer for your class asking God to show them how to share His love and proclaim His soon return.

Once you have prayed, allow your students a minute to pray silently to God. Ask them to focus on their mission as God's youth in a sinful world. Encourage them to ask for the power of God's Holy Spirit to help them live a holy life. Close with everyone repeating the Lord's Prayer.

Summary

Share the following thoughts in your own words:

William Miller and the early Adventists had been faithful to a God-inspired calling. They proclaimed the message that Jesus, the Bridegroom, was soon to appear and all needed to be ready to meet Him. At the time when this message of warning was delivered, it swept the land. Many joined the movement. But soon Satan brought an air of fanaticism into the work, leading many church leaders to disregard the deep searching truths of the Advent message and forbidding their membership to attend the meetings.

When their hopes were dashed, many of the Advent believers gave up the faith, but many went back to the Bible, searching earnestly for truth, for some explanation from God to illumine the 2300-day prophecy. Their perseverance was rewarded, as we'll study next week.

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[1] https://www.cnn.com/2004/ALLPOLITICS/04/10/august6.memo/, accessed July 16, 2025. You can also google "April 10, 2004, Presidential Daily Briefing."

[2] Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, p. 371.

[3] For a more complete explanation of the prophecy, see Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy,* pp. 409-411.

[4] *Seventh-day Adventists Believe . . .* , p. 163.

Remind the students about the reading plan that will take them through the inspired commentary of the Bible, the Conflict of the Ages Series. The reading that goes with this lesson is *The Great Controversy* (or *Love Under Fire)*, chapters 21, 22.

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SEPTEMBER 12 2026

STUDENT LESSON

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

keytext

"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)

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).

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.

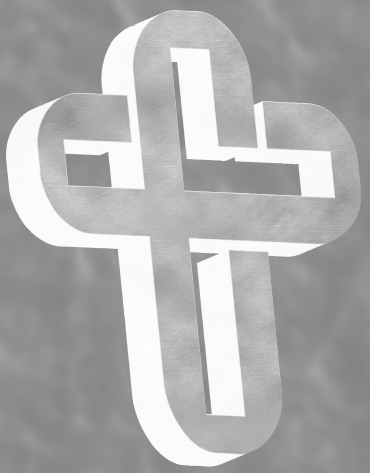
"Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.' Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming."

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.