CORNERSTONE CONNECTIONS
JULY 11 2026

Scripture Story: Daniel 7:25; 2 Thessalonians 2:3-7; Revelation 12:6.
Commentary: *The Great Controversy* (or *Love Under Fire*), chapters 3, 4.

the Bible and you



Photo by Luis Guerra, Jr.

flashlight

"Satan well knew that the Holy Scriptures would enable men to discern his deceptions and withstand his power. It was by the Word that even the Savior of the world had resisted his attacks. At every assault, Christ presented the shield of eternal truth, saying, 'It is written'" (*The Great Controversy,* p. 51).

key text

"For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way."

(2 Thessalonians 2:7, NIV)

what do you think?

Answer these questions as quickly as you can:

1. Where is your Bible right now?

_____

2. When did you last read your Bible?

_____

3. What is your favorite Bible passage?

_____

4. How much would you sell your Bible for if you were offered cash right now?

_____

did you know?

Before the invention of the printing press, it took a skilled writer about 10 months to produce a copy of the Bible. Anyone who wanted a Bible must wait almost a year to receive their purchase. In today's standards, the writer would be paid at the rate of any other skilled laborer, possibly $15-$20 per hour. If that laborer worked five days a week, eight hours a day, that would make your Bible cost $24,000!

But wait . . . we aren't considering the cost of keeping a business open. A business never charges you only the fee to pay the basic salary of the employee who is working on your Bible. The fee is much higher to compensate for electricity, taxes, office space, etc. When you get your car fixed, you don't pay the $20/hr for the mechanic; you pay $50-$75/hr to cover all of the other costs as well. If we apply that to your Bible, it could cost as much as $96,000! (https://www.cgg.org/index.cfm/library/article/id/615/how-much-is-bible-worth-to-you.htm, accessed July 16, 2025.)

INTO THE STORY

"He will speak against the Most High and oppress his holy people and try to change the set times and the laws. The holy people will be delivered into his hands for a time, times and half a time."

"Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.

"Don't you remember that when I was with you I used to tell you these things? And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time. For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way."

"The woman fled into the wilderness to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days."

(Daniel 7:25; 2 Thessalonians 2:3-7; Revelation 12:6, NIV)



OUT OF THE STORY

How do these passages describe the Dark Ages of European history?

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_____
_____

When a religious organization sets itself up as having the same power as God Himself, what would that do to the people who were governed by it?

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_____
_____

Why do you think God told us ahead of time that these things would happen?

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What do you think is the "secret power of lawlessness"?

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_____

What are the "set times" and "laws" that this power would try to change?

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Is it possible to have an organization that started out with pure intentions, became corrupt with power, but still has good, God-fearing people within it? Explain.

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Who or what does the woman represent? How did God take care of her? How will He take care of us?

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punch lines

"Don't suppose for a minute that I have come to demolish the Scriptures—either God's Law or the Prophets. I'm not here to demolish but to complete. I am going to put it all together, pull it all together in a vast panorama. God's Law is more real and lasting than the stars in the sky and the ground at your feet. Long after stars burn out and earth wears out, God's Law will be alive and working" **(Matthew 5:17, 18, *The Message*).**

"You are to have the same law for the foreigner and the native-born. I am the Lord your God" **(Leviticus 24:22, NIV).**

"Follow my decrees and be careful to obey my laws, and you will live safely in the land. Then the land will yield its fruit, and you will eat your fill and live there in safety" **(Leviticus 25:18, 19, NIV).**

"By your words I can see where I'm going; they throw a beam of light on my dark path" **(Psalm 119:105, *The Message*).**

further insight

"In like manner He had established His law, the foundation of His government in heaven and upon earth. The arm of man might reach his fellow men and destroy their lives; but that arm could as readily uproot the mountains from their foundations, and hurl them into the sea, as it could change one precept of the law of Jehovah, or blot out one of His promises to those who do His will."

—Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy,* p. 66

Sabbath

Read Psalm 119:105.

We are used to having free and easy access to the Bible. The Bible is used in literature, in poetry, in government, and even in comedy. Most of us have several Bibles in our homes. Bibles are given out for free by churches. Bible verses are displayed on billboards. Count how many Bibles you have in your home right now. Look at how many Bible versions you have available online. If you suddenly had no access to a Bible—not online, in your home, in the library, or in churches—would you miss it? Would you want one? Or would you not notice its absence? Psalm 119:105 says: "By your words I can see where I'm going; they throw a beam of light on my dark path" (*The Message*). How might your Bible guide you today? (Remember, you have Notes pages in the back of your study guide to write longer answers.)

Sunday

Read Romans 15:4.

It is said that absolute power corrupts absolutely. In the Dark Ages, the Catholic Church wielded absolute power over the population of Europe. Corrupt leaders were more interested in controlling people than they were in teaching them. Without access to the Bible, the people had no way of knowing the truth about God.

Next to these mistakes the common people made without the Bible to guide them, write down what these ideas would make them think about God.

1. God changed the Sabbath to a different day.

2. The church has absolute authority equal to God's, and can decide if you are saved or lost.

3. You must earn forgiveness either by paying money or by doing repetitive tasks.

4. The Bible is too complicated to be understood by regular people and must be read only by religious leaders.

Do you even *like* that kind of God?

Monday

Read 2 Thessalonians 2:7.

The *Key Text* refers to the "secret power of lawlessness" that was already at work right after Jesus left earth to go to heaven. How has the idea that God's law no longer matters been insinuated into our lives today? The idea that "rules were made to be broken" is a very dangerous one. Watch the news tonight. Make a list of every "broken rule" that you can see throughout the program. Look at them separately and see how innocent they look, and then consider the repercussions. What ways do you think you can assert your independence and unique perspective without going against the law of God?

Tuesday

Read Psalm 31:24.

Ellen White points out in *Flashlight* that Jesus used the Scriptures to fight off the temptations of the devil. Sometimes we think of the devil's temptations as obvious, such as stealing something or killing someone. However, the devil is smarter than that. He comes at us with fear, despondency, loneliness, and rage. The Bible is not a book of rules; it's a book of promises and hope, and the devil doesn't want us to have access to its power.

Start a journal today, writing down every promise that you find in the Bible. Look back on it often. Memorize the verses that have special meaning to you. Next time you feel like the world is against you, pull out your Bible and your journal, and see what a difference God's Word makes in difficult times!

Wednesday

A common belief out there is that after Jesus died on the cross God's law no longer mattered. Look at the verses in *Punch Lines*. Does this seem to be the case? In fact, there are promises that our lives will be richer and happier for having followed God's guidelines. Look up the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20. Are there any of God's laws that you think don't matter? Why do you think they might still matter today? How would they improve our lives? If Jesus' death really erased these laws, are we free to do all these things?

Thursday

Read Deuteronomy 31:12.

How do you read your Bible? Do you just read a verse here or there? Do you take your parents' or your teachers' word on what the Bible is saying in the bigger picture? Here is a challenge: make it a point to read your Bible cover-to-cover and see for yourself what is in there! Once you see all of it, you'll never be the same again. Guaranteed.

Friday

Read 2 Timothy 3:14, 15.

How does the Bible affect *your* life? How could it improve your life? If Christians in the Dark Ages would pay the equivalent of $100,000 in today's currency for one copy of the Bible, what do you think is in there that is worth so much?

this week's reading*

The Great Controversy (or *Love Under Fire),* chapters 3, 4.

**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.