



### Sabbath

#### FOR STUDY

- » **Memory Text:** "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also" (John 14:1-3, NKJV).
- » **Our Beliefs, no. 25, The Second Coming of Christ:** "The second coming of Christ is the blessed hope of the church, the grand climax of the gospel. The Savior's coming will be literal, personal, visible, and worldwide."
- » Ellen G. White, *Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, pp. 107, 108

### WAITING WITH GREAT ANTICIPATION

In 1914 an expedition led by Sir Ernest Shackleton set out from England to cross the continent of Antarctica in the ship *Endurance*. Pack ice closed around the ship and split it in two. For five months the members of the expedition drifted around on large ice floes. Then, with the help of small boats they had salvaged from the *Endurance*, they made their way to Elephant Island. The nearest human habitation was 800 miles away on the island of South Georgia.

Shackleton, with five of his men, faced the mountainous waves in his little whaleboat, and managed to reach South Georgia. Soon a rescue attempt was organized. The first attempt failed. The pack ice closed in, and the rescue ship had to turn back. A second attempt was organized and failed. A third attempt was made, and once again the ice was the victor.

Only after four rescue attempts could Shackleton find a way through to Elephant Island. As he approached that wilderness of snow and ice, he wondered what he would find. Would anyone still be alive after those months of waiting?

Shackleton found every man alive, in good condition, and in good spirits. How had they survived? The secret lay in the leadership of the man he had left in charge. Every day he would say to his men, "Get ready, boys; the boss may come back today."

And every day they got ready. Every day they prepared themselves. Every day they watched. Every day they waited. And despite the long silence, despite the great odds, one day Shackleton did come back, as he had promised.

We need to watch and pray every day. And one day soon Jesus will come back to rescue us. His admonition to us is: "Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect" (Matthew 24:44, NKJV).

The most important part of this message is the need for every Christian to be ready for Jesus' soon coming.

—Adapted from Henry Feyerabend, "Sir Ernest Shackleton," *Slices of Life (Oshawa, Ont.: It is Written, 1995)*, pp. 163, 164.

### Sunday

#### RESPONDING

- » Read Matthew 24:23-27; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation 1:7.
- » A friend of yours is all excited about the Left Behind books he's been reading. He really believes there's going to be a secret rapture and all the good people will be taken to heaven secretly, leaving the wicked here on earth.  
You tell him you don't agree. "What?" he says. "Don't you believe Jesus is coming back?"  
"Yes, of course I believe in His return," you respond. "But I don't believe that Jesus' second coming will be as a secret rapture. That's not what the Bible teaches."  
"So what does the Bible teach?" your friend challenges.  
What do you tell him? Can you sum up Seventh-day Adventist beliefs about Jesus' coming? How can you share what you learned from today's Scripture passages about Jesus' second coming? For a list of additional Bible references about Jesus' second coming, check the readings listed for Monday in the section below.
- » Log on to [www.guidemagazine.org/rtf](http://www.guidemagazine.org/rtf) to post your responses. Be up-front and honest. Say what you think.

### Monday

#### BIBLE ANSWERS ON THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

- » Read Acts 1:9-11; 1 Corinthians 15:51-54; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.
- » When Jesus returns in glory, He will receive to Himself those who accepted His saving grace, kept His commandments, and had the faith of Jesus. At His coming the dead who believed in Him will be resurrected, and together with the faithful who will be alive they will be glorified and taken to heaven. Yet those who chose to reject Christ's invitation of grace and who did not accept Jesus as their personal Savior will be destroyed by the glory of His coming. We are now living in the time of the end, when Jesus is about to return. Bible prophecy and the signs of the times are being fulfilled before our eyes (see Matthew 24). These indicate that Jesus' second coming is very near. Since we do not know the time of His return, we need to live in a constant state of preparation so that we might be ready when He comes.
- » "The kingdom of God's grace is now being established, as day by day hearts that have been full of sin and rebellion yield to the sovereignty of His love. But the full establishment of the kingdom of His glory will not take place until the second coming of Christ to this world. 'The kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven,' is to be given to 'the people of the saints of the Most High' (Daniel 7:27). They shall inherit the kingdom prepared for them 'from the foundation of the world' (Matthew 25:34)" (Ellen G. White, *Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, p. 108).

Find the words listed below in the puzzle. The words can appear forward, backward, up, down, or diagonally.

ADVENTIST	O T J H D Q B J K J P W T Z W
APOSTLES	X W L E Y E P R Q T Y U A H S
BIBLE	T N E M T N I O P P A S I D E
COMING	M G L M J I K J Y I Q T D Q L
DISAPPOINTMENT	K W B J E J Y P O B E U P A T
ELLEN	K S I E J O R R K R V T T B S
JESUS	T G B S N E L L E P E E I B O
PETER	R S O U L F Q M Z A G T P U P
READY	F E I S Y Z Q G P Z B W U I A
RETURN	F D T T M Y D A E R K M D R F
SECOND	B K E E N H X F C T W N M A N
TIME	B Y I J P E J D X T O P E U A
WHITE	E B J O B C V F M C O M I N G
	F Z S R Z G T D E M I V Y I D
	C N J U D U Y S A T G I X S S

Tuesday

**REFLECTING**

- » Read Matthew 6:9, 10 and Matthew 28:19, 20.
- » "His kingdom will not come until the good tidings of His grace have been carried to all the earth. . . . Only those who devote themselves to His service, saying, 'Here am I; send me' (Isaiah 6:8), to open blind eyes, to turn men 'from darkness to light and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and inheritance among them which are sanctified' (Acts 26:18)—they alone pray in sincerity, 'Thy kingdom come'" (Ellen G. White, *Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, pp. 108, 109).
- » The early Christians kept their eyes focused on what Jesus' return meant for them in their everyday lives. If Jesus really is coming back—if this life we're living now is temporary instead of permanent—then it should change everything. It should affect the way we treat other people, the decisions we make, and most of all, our relationship with God. That was Jesus' message. He didn't tell us when He will return. He just told us He would return—so that we would make every day count until that time.

Thursday

**CONNECTING**

- » Read Matthew 24:36.
- » What would you do if you knew Jesus was returning to earth tomorrow? next week? next month? next year? We can probably all think of things we'd like to do, changes we'd like to make, people we'd like to share Jesus with so that they can be in heaven with us.
- » But Jesus didn't give us a definite date. Every generation of Christians since Jesus' resurrection has lived with the possibility that Jesus could return in their lifetime. And for that reason, Christians have always had to be ready.
- » That's just as true today as it was in the time of Jesus. Living for Jesus 100 percent is not something we can put off until a few months or weeks before His return. Jesus told us that He would come back like a "thief in the night." The only way to prepare for a thief is to have your security system in place and working all the time. Our "security system" is faith in Jesus and a relationship with Him. Is your security system turned on? If so, you don't need to worry about when Jesus is coming—all you need to do is prepare to be ready.

Wednesday

**BIBLE INSIGHTS**

Read the following Bible verses and check all the correct answers. Then answer the questions below.

Matthew 24:36      1 Corinthians 1:7, 8      John 14:1-3  
 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3      2 Peter 3:8-13      Matthew 25:31-40

1	Do we know when Jesus will return?	<input type="radio"/> the Father knows	<input type="radio"/> we don't know	<input type="radio"/> the Son knows
2	How will He come?	<input type="radio"/> in glory	<input type="radio"/> with angels	<input type="radio"/> like a thief in the night
3	How will Jesus keep us?	<input type="radio"/> firm	<input type="radio"/> to the end	<input type="radio"/> blameless
4	What is a day like to God?	<input type="radio"/> a day	<input type="radio"/> 1,000 years	<input type="radio"/> 2,500 years
5	What is a thousand years like to God?	<input type="radio"/> a day	<input type="radio"/> 1,000 years	<input type="radio"/> 2,500 years
6	What does God want everyone to do?	<input type="radio"/> live holy and godly lives	<input type="radio"/> share Him	<input type="radio"/> look for His coming
7	What did Jesus go to do for us?	<input type="radio"/> prepare us a place	<input type="radio"/> intercede	<input type="radio"/> plan a feast
8	In what ways do we show we belong to God?	<input type="radio"/> feed the hungry and give water to someone thirsty	<input type="radio"/> give clothes to someone in need	<input type="radio"/> care for the sick and visit the prisoners

1. How does knowing that Christ will return affect your behavior?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. How important is Christ's return to you? Does knowing the specifics of that event matter to you?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. When someone presents to you something about Christ's second coming that you know to be incorrect, how do you respond? What do you say to that person?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Do you want to share the "blessed hope" of Jesus' second coming with others? If so, why?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Friday

**APPLYING**

- » Read Titus 2:13 and Hebrews 9:28.
- » Write a short letter with someone in mind who does not know Jesus. Describe what you have learned from the Bible about Jesus' second coming this week. Write about what this "blessed hope" means to you and how determined you are to prepare for His imminent return. After you complete your letter, think about how you could share its content with someone who needs to learn about Jesus. You can choose to talk to one of your friends about this topic next time you meet. In any case, be prepared whenever the opportunity arises to share with someone your hope in Jesus' soon return.
- » Ask God to help you prepare for Jesus' second coming and also for opportunities to share this good news with others.

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