

## Lesson 15: As Disciples through the End Times

**Intro** Welcome to the last lesson of module 1. In the last 14 lessons we have studied the topic of discipleship and personal salvation from different angles. We have seen that discipleship is not just one of many topics in the Bible, but *the central* topic of the Holy Scriptures.

**Definition of "Disciple"** Write below a short summary of how you would define a disciple of Jesus!

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A disciple is a person who has made a clear, wholehearted decision to follow Jesus. He/she has personally accepted the salvation through Jesus Christ and lives in an intimate connection with Jesus Christ. He/she bases his/her faith and life on God's word and allows God to change them. Furthermore, a disciple has personally accepted the Great Commission and makes disciples of others.



**Matthew  
28:19**

What did Jesus commission his disciples to do before He returned to Heaven?

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**More than  
preaching**

Jesus gave a clear command to His disciples: "Go ye therefore and make disciples of all nations!" With the understanding of discipleship that we have gained thus far, we know that this commission encompasses much more than just preaching the message. We need to help others to become followers of Jesus, to live their faith practically on a day to day basis, and to equip them in sharing their faith with others and discipling others to do the same. The Great Commission is not just about converting people, but about training workers! Jesus' plan is for disciples to make other disciples and for those disciples to make other disciples and so on...



**Matthew  
24:14**

What does Jesus predict would happen before the end of the world?

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Only a disciple of Jesus can share the Gospel in such a way that it makes disciples of others. Discipleship is the key element in the end times. In short, everything we know about the end times only makes sense when we live as disciples of Jesus. When we read Daniel and Revelation carefully we can see clearly that discipleship is the central theme.



What is the title of the book of Revelation?

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**Revelation**  
**1:1,3**

This title can be understood in two ways: 1) It is Jesus that reveals something here. 2) Jesus is the main theme of Revelation. Both meanings are true and applicable.

Who will receive the blessing mentioned in verse 3?

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**Quote #1**

“The book of Revelation opens with an injunction to us to understand the instruction that it contains. ‘Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy’ God declares, ‘and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.’ When we as a people understand what this book means to us, there will be seen among us a great revival. ...When the books of Daniel and Revelation are better understood, believers will have an entirely different religious experience.”  
*(Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers p. 113, 114)*



Write it down again! What will happen when we study deeply the book of Revelation?

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Ellen White prophesied that there will be a great revival among us when we study the book of Revelation. This revival is will be a deeper commitment to discipleship, which is exactly what the book of Revelation describes. Everything that we learned in module 1 about discipleship we also find in the book of Revelation.



The key statement that best describes what discipleship is all about can be found in Revelation 14:4. How is discipleship portrayed in this verse?

**Revelation**  
**14:4**

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“They follow the Lamb wherever He goes.” This is a precise definition of discipleship in the introduction to the Three Angels Messages where our identity and mission is described. So let’s discover what the book of Revelation has to say about discipleship in the endtimes.

**1st Sign**

**In the endtimes, disciples of Jesus have experienced salvation through Jesus Christ and thus justification by faith.**

This is and will always be a prerequisite to becoming a disciple of Jesus. This was the central theme of the messages of both Jesus and the Apostles. It isn't any different in our time.

Only those who have experienced salvation through Jesus Christ can proclaim this end time message with conviction and power. And only in the context of righteousness by faith can this message be understood at all. Whether we talk about judgment, the Second Coming, sanctification, resurrection, or the great controversy between Christ and Satan, these topics make sense only when preached and understood with Christ at the center.



How do the following verses in Revelation describe salvation through Christ and justification by faith?

1:5: \_\_\_\_\_

3:5; 7:14; 19:8: \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: White clothing in the Bible is a symbol for those who are saved through Jesus (compare Isaiah 61:10)*

5:9: \_\_\_\_\_

12:11: \_\_\_\_\_

14:4: \_\_\_\_\_

**Goal and core of our prophetic message**

God also showed very clearly, through the writings of Ellen White, that the message of righteousness by faith should never be separated from our prophetic message. Moreover, it is the very core and goal of our message. The message of righteousness by faith describes what God wants to do *for* and *in* us when we give ourselves wholly to Him in these last days. The context of the end times only gives more urgency to the message of righteousness by faith.

**Quote #2**

"Several have written to me, inquiring if the message of justification by faith is the third angel's message, and I have answered, 'It is the third angel's message in verity.'" (*Last Day Events*, p. 199,200.)

**Quote #3**

"The Lord in His great mercy sent a most precious message to His people through Elders [E.J.] Waggoner and [A.T.] Jones. This message was to bring more prominently before the world the uplifted Saviour, the sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. It presented justification through faith in the Surety; it invited the people to receive the righteousness of Christ, which was made manifest in obedience to all the

commandments of God.

Many had lost sight of Jesus. They needed to have their eyes directed to His divine person, His merits, and His changeless love for the human family. All power is given into His hands, that He may dispense rich gifts unto men, imparting the priceless gifts of His own righteousness to the helpless human agent. This is the message that God commanded to be given to the world. It is the third angel's message, which is to be proclaimed with a loud voice, and attended with the outpouring of His Spirit in a large measure." (*Last Day Events*, p. 200)

**Quote #4**

"The message of Christ's righteousness is to sound from one end of the earth to the other to prepare the way of the Lord. This is the glory of God, which closes the work of the third angel." (*Last Day Events*, p. 200)

**2nd Sign**

**In the endtimes, disciples of Jesus strive to bring their lives into harmony with God's will.**



Which message is repeated in the following verses in Revelation?

2:5,16; 3:3,19: \_\_\_\_\_

The message "Repent!" is not only directed toward unbelievers. It is also for the followers of Jesus who have gone astray and need to bring their lives back into harmony with God. John the Baptist's message to the people to "repent and be baptized" pierced their prideful hearts because they thought repentance was only necessary for the heathens. But John was speaking to Jews who were supposed to automatically be believers. So it is today. We are comfortable with the idea that only unbelievers need to repent. But in reality those who claim to follow Jesus also need to repent. It is God's goodness that leads us to repentance (Romans 2:4). Lovingly, He invites us to repent, so that our lives are in harmony with His will.

**3rd Sign**

**In the endtimes, disciples of Jesus are filled with and led by the Holy Spirit.**



What does John write about the leading of the Holy Spirit?

2:7,11,17, 29; 3:6,13,22: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In what special way does the Holy Spirit lead the followers of Jesus.

19:10: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**4th Sign**

**In the end times, disciples of Jesus unreservedly hold fast onto the Word of God.**



How do the following texts describe the attitude of Jesus' followers about His Word?

1:3: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3:8,10: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

20:4: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

22:7: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

22:18,19: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### 5th Sign



**In the endtimes, disciples of Jesus are people of prayer.**

How do the following two texts describe the prayers of Jesus' disciples?

5:8; 8:3: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

These two verses clearly show how the prayers of the followers of Jesus ( the "saints") reach Heaven. It is Jesus who brings our prayers before the Father as our Intercessor in the heavenly sanctuary.

Also the book of Daniel (the twin book of Revelation) describes in a very impressive way the significance of prayer. (see Daniel 2:17,18; 6:11; 9:4,18, 23; 10:12, 14) The stories that we read in the book of Daniel foreshadow the experiences the disciples of Jesus will have at the end of time.

### 6th Sign



**In the endtimes, disciples are obedient to God's Commandments.**

What role do God's Commandments play in God's last Church?

12:17: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

14:12: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### 7th Sign



**In the endtimes, disciples of Jesus are overcomers.**

What phrase is repeated in the following verses?

2:7,11,17, 26; 3:5,12, 21;  
21:7. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Jesus said: "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me." (Luke 9:23). In Revelation this thought is expressed by the word *overcome*. Often this expression is followed by the admonition "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches!" Overcoming is only possible as we open our heart to the voice of the Holy Spirit.

### 8th Sign



#### Disciples of Jesus experience a change of character.

How does Revelation describe the character of the last generation?

14,1: \_\_\_\_\_

14,4.5: \_\_\_\_\_

God's name symbolizes His character, which He desires to restore in every believer. When God created mankind in the beginning, they were created in His likeness. But because of sin, the image of God in mankind was marred, but not completely destroyed. Through the new birth and sanctification God step by step restores His image in the believer (Colossians 3:10). In other passages this process of restoration is also described as God writing His law on our hearts (Hebrews 8:10). God's law is a reflection of His character. The last generation will reflect His character and will show the whole universe that God's law is just and that through God's grace the saved are able to keep His law.

### Quote #5

"The last message of mercy to be given to the world is a revelation of His character of love. The children of God are to manifest His glory. In their own life and character they are to reveal what the grace of God has done for them." (*Last Day Events, p. 200*)

### 9th Sign



#### In the endtimes, disciples of Jesus proclaim the Gospel.

What role do the disciples of Jesus play in the proclamation of the Gospel?

12:11: \_\_\_\_\_

14:6: \_\_\_\_\_

22:17: \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus commissioned his disciples to go into all the world and preach the Gospel to all mankind. Every generation since then, the followers of Jesus have taken this commission seriously and it is still valid for the endtime generation.

### Quote #6

"It is the privilege of every Christian not only to look for but to hasten the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, (2 Peter 3:12, margin). Were all who profess His name bearing fruit to His glory, how quickly the whole world would be sown with the seed of the gospel. Quickly the last great harvest would be ripened, and Christ would come to gather the precious grain." (*Christ's Object Lessons, p. 69*)

**10th Attribute** In the end times, disciples of Jesus have made a clear decision to follow Jesus 100%.



In Revelation it is made very clear that a half-hearted commitment to Jesus is invalid. Revelation calls us to make a clear-cut decision! How clear is this call in the message to the Laodiceans?

3:14-22: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

It is unmistakably clear in Revelation chapters 13 and 14 that we must make a decision whose side we are on because there is no more room for fence-sitters. Either you follow Jesus and receive the seal of God or you worship the beast and receive his mark. There is no third option.



As Seventh-day Adventists, God gave us a special message to give to the world to help people prepare for the Second Coming of Jesus. But everything that we proclaim will only be believed when we ourselves are living every aspect of the message in the light of Jesus Christ. This is why discipleship can't be separated from the message of Revelation.

**Quote #7**

“Many remarks have been made to the effect that in their discourses our speakers have dwelt upon the law, and not upon Jesus. This statement is not strictly true, but is there not some reason for it? Have there not stood in the desk men who have not had a genuine experience in the things of God, men who have not received the righteousness of Christ? Many of our ministers have merely sermonized, presenting subjects in an argumentative way, and scarcely mentioning the saving power of the Redeemer. ...By them men are not pricked to the heart; they are not led to inquire, what must I do to be saved? Of all professing Christians, Seventh-day Adventists should be foremost in uplifting Christ before the world. The proclamation of the third angel's message calls for the presentation of the Sabbath truth. This truth, with others included in the message, is to be proclaimed; but the great center of attraction, Christ Jesus, must not be left out. It is at the cross of Christ that mercy and truth meet together, and righteousness and peace kiss each other. The sinner must be led to look to Calvary; with the simple faith of a little child he must trust in the merits of the Saviour, accepting His righteousness, believing in His mercy.”  
*(Gospel Workers, p. 156, [1915])*

**The Most Important Question**

It is so important that we not let the messages of Daniel and Revelation fall to the wayside. We must always view them in a Christ-centered way. Only as disciples of Jesus, living in a dynamic relationship with Him, can we understand and proclaim these messages properly. The endtime prophecies show us the urgency of the time we are living in. If there ever was a time that we should make a clear, consistent decision to be disciples of Jesus, the time would be now. Today. God invites us to belong to those who are referred to as “following the Lamb wherever He goes.”

