

When William Miller started preaching, people from many different churches received the good news. At first the various ministers were glad because it brought revival to their churches but after a while most ministers decided to forbid it and members were told not to attend meetings or talk of it. Soon those who had accepted the message of the Christ's soon return were forced to leave their former churches.

When the spring of 1844 passed (the date calculated as the end of the 2300 days) and Jesus did not appear, the believers turned again to their Bibles. They noticed for the first time that many of the end time prophecies also spoke of a time of waiting including Habakkuk 2:2-3, Ezekiel 12:21-28 and the parable of the 10 virgins in Matthew 25.

Now some people claimed to have new truths from the Holy Spirit, truths that superseded the Bible. William Miller had no patience for these fanatics and replied "By their fruits we will know them..." yet they caused strife and troubles, and the all the believers were blamed.

Further study of the Bible showed that in the prophecies concerning the first coming of Jesus, not only was the year fulfilled but also the time of the year and so they realised the same would be true for the 2300-year prophecy which matched the Old Testament Sanctuary services of the Day of Atonement. This placed the fulfilment of the prophecy in autumn instead of spring. Suddenly the revival began with a new force and the fanatics disappeared. Yet the Day of Atonement passed, and Jesus did not return.

At this point many who had based their belief on the opinions of others gave up; others felt they couldn't endure the embarrassment. Many had left their farms or jobs to concentrate on spreading the good news – who needed money or food when they would soon be in heaven? In their disappointment, they turned again to the Bible.

The answer was finally found in Hebrew 8 and 9, where Paul talks about Jesus our High Priest and the Heavenly Sanctuary. They realised that the 2300-year prophecy referred to the Sanctuary in Heaven. On the Day of Atonement in 1844, Jesus our High Priest entered the Most Holy Place in Heaven. This was the start of the cleansing of the Heavenly Sanctuary. This is also the first of three angel's messages in Revelation 14:7 NIV "Fear God and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgement has come. Worship Him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water."

This was the start of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Seventh-day, because we are called to worship the Creator on His Sabbath (Revelation 14:7 & Exodus 20:4) and Adventist because of the hope of Christ's soon return.

# Why Bad Things Happen

## Sabbath

William Miller was not the only one to see the meaning in the prophecies of Daniel at this time. Dr Joseph Wolff was born in Germany to Jewish parents and as a child he became curious about who Jesus was. At eleven he left home to gain an education, staying with relatives; but because of his interest in Christianity he was soon forced to leave. A Catholic instructor led him to accept the Catholic faith and a few years later he went to study in Rome to become a missionary, but he ran into trouble when he spoke out against the abuses of the Church and was forced to leave. He made his way to England and joined the English Church. From his continued study of the Bible, he concluded that the coming of the Lord was very near just as William Miller had so he became a missionary travelling to many places including in Africa, Egypt, Asia, Palestine, Syria, Persia and India. At times he suffered hardships including starvation, robbery and slavery, and three times he was condemned to death.

In Bokhara Dr Wolff met the Arabs of Yeomen who had a book telling for the second coming of the Messiah and predicting great events for 1840!

Some time before this, Manuel Diaz Lacunza, a Spanish Jesuit had found the prophecies of Daniel in his study of the scriptures and written his findings under the name or "Rabbi Ben-Ezra". In 1825 his book found its way to London and was translated into English.

In Germany, Johann Albrecht Bengel a minister of the Lutheran Church had become interested in the study of the second coming of Christ while he was preparing a sermon on Revelation 21, as a result he spent time studying the prophecies relating to the second coming including those of Daniel. He, like William Miller and Dr Wolff, also concluded that the second coming was close.

Francois Samuel Robert Louis Gaussen of Geneva, became interested in the prophecies of Daniel after realising how accurately they have been fulfilled in history. Like others who studied during this time, he also concluded that Christ was soon to return. Seeking to break the popular view that the prophecies of Daniel could not be understood, Gaussen began by teaching the children. Interest quickly grew but then he was removed from his position for "teaching from the Bible."

Year 2, Quarter 2, Week 13, Level: "Pre/Teens"

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Refer: Job 1; 2; 42:10-17; Education p154-156; The Bible Story vol6 p161-176; The Great Controversy ch 20

## Sunday

One day the heavenly court met before the Lord and Satan came too. Satan said, "I have been watching the earth," and the Lord asked, "Have you seen my servant Job? He loves God and stays away from evil."

Satan replied, "That is because you have given him everything he could want; he is the richest man in the area and has a large happy family. Let me take it away and he will curse you." "You may test him," said the Lord, "but don't harm him."

One day a messenger arrived at Job's home with the news that raiders had stolen all of his oxen and donkeys and killed his farm hands.

While he was still speaking, another messenger arrived to say that lightning had killed all his sheep.

While he was still speaking another messenger arrived to say that all his camels had been stolen, and before he finished, another messenger arrived with the news that Job's children had been at a party when a powerful wind caused the house to collapse, killing all ten of his children! Job was distraught but he cried "The Lord gave it all to me and the Lord has taken it away. Praise the Lord!"

Satan attended the heavenly court again and the Lord said, "Job is still the finest man on earth; he loves God and stays away from evil even though you have tested him." Satan said, "Let me take away his health and then he will surely curse you." "All right," the Lord said, "But don't kill him."

Now terrible boils appeared all over Job's body. Hearing what had happened, three of Job's friends, Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar, came to visit. When they saw him, they wailed loudly, tore their clothes and threw dust in the air to show their grief, then they sat silently with him for seven days.

As his agony continued, Job questioned what God was doing and wondered why he had been born; even his wife said, "Give up! Curse God so you will die."

Finally, Eliphaz spoke, he said that Job had been such a support to others in the past but now trouble had struck him, he had sinned, he was a fool and had done some evil. "If I were you," he told Job, "I would stop complaining and ask God to correct me; for though the Lord punishes He also heals."

But Job protested, "Animals complain when they have no food why shouldn't I complain? Stop assuming I am guilty - I have done nothing! If only I would die. God: if I have sinned then forgive me!"

Then Bildad spoke, "God is just - perhaps it was your children who sinned. History shows us that God blesses those who live right."

## Friday

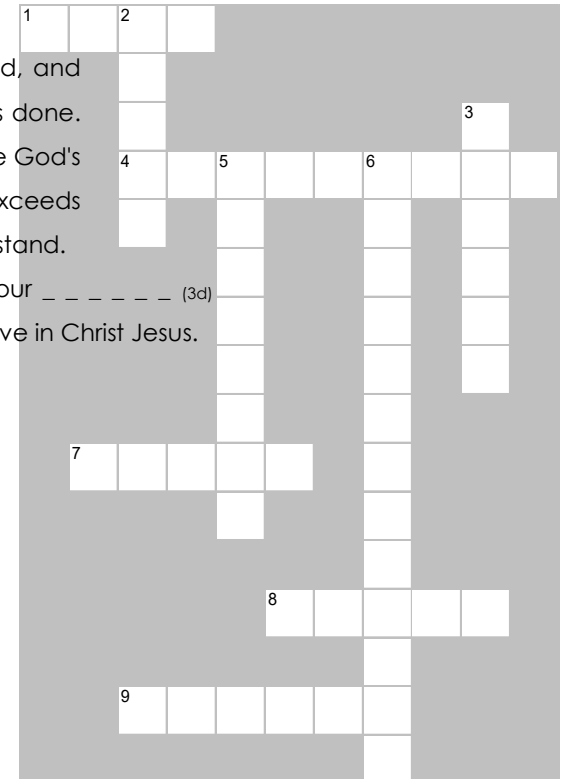
Here are some other verses to help you when things go wrong. Fill in the missing words and then solve the crossword.

- **1 Thessalonians 5:17, 18<sup>NIV</sup>** "Pray continually, give thanks in all \_\_\_\_\_ (6 across), for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."
- **Romans 5:3, 4<sup>NLT</sup>** "We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of \_\_\_\_\_ (4a), and character strengths our confident hope of salvation."
- **Jeremiah 29:11<sup>NLT</sup>** "For I know the \_\_\_\_\_ (7a) I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a \_\_\_\_\_ (9a) and a \_\_\_\_\_ (1a)."
- **Philippians 4:6, 7<sup>NLT</sup>** "Don't worry about \_\_\_\_\_ (5d); instead, pray about everything.

Tell God what you need, and thank Him for all He has done.

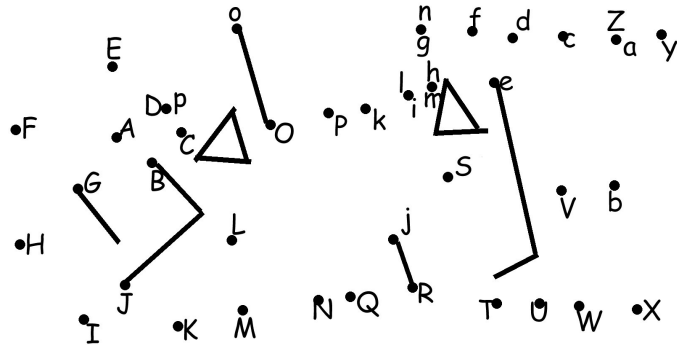
Then you will experience God's \_\_\_\_\_ (2d), which exceeds anything we can understand.

His peace will guard your \_\_\_\_\_ (3d) and \_\_\_\_\_ (8a) as you live in Christ Jesus.



## Thursday

Who is really behind all the bad things that happen in this world? Join all the capital letters together and then join the lower-case letters.



Some bad things because of bad choices that we make, give an example:

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Some bad things happen because of the bad choices of other people. Give an example:

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Some bad things happen because Satan is trying to test, trap or hurt us.

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Write 1 Corinthians 10:13 in your own words:

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## Monday

Job said, "I know God blesses those who live right and God made everything, He can do anything; why should He talk to me? But I tell you, He has hurt me without reason; I am innocent - but what can I do? God: You made me and gave me life and now you are destroying it. Why was I born?"

Now it was Zophar's turn. "Stop mocking God! No doubt God's punishment is less than you deserve - God knows everything. Prepare your heart, pray, get rid of your sins and this will pass."

"My friends," said Job. "You are laughing at me because I want an answer from God. I am innocent - sometimes bad things happen to the innocent and the wicked are left alone - ask the animals and birds. You believe wrongly of me; are you trying to defend God's actions with lies? Be quiet now."

But Job's friends argued, "You are talking foolishly." "Yes, Stop talking nonsense, we are not stupid; it is the wicked who are punished."

"You are my friends," protested Job, "You should be comforting me. God has wronged me! He has made my life torture!"

Again Zophar spoke, reminding them that the wicked succeed for only a short time before receiving their reward and Job spoke again of others who were wicked who lived long and comfortable lives.

Elephaz spoke again, "What is a mere person to God - you must have done something." - and he listed all the sins he could think of that Job might have committed. You can read his list in Job chapter 22.

Then Job spoke, "If only I knew where to find God, I would lay out my case before Him, but I cannot find Him. I have stayed on His paths and followed His ways. When He tests me, I will come out as pure as gold. Why the wicked aren't punished? Why are they allowed to continue?"

Bildad said, "God is so great - how can anyone be innocent before Him?"

Have you ever wondered why bad things sometimes happen to good people? YES / NO

Do you know anyone who has had bad things happen to them? What happened?

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Find the underlined words in the grid.

F A R M H A N D S G O O D B A  
D D A I S A S O T E R B L E S  
B O I L S S I N N G P U B I S  
H M D E N T T K R I A L S R E  
W A E R C A M E L S D S G O O  
D B R A D R D Y I T S A S T E  
T E S T R G B S L O E S S I N  
G P U B I U S H M L E N T S T  
R I A O X E N L H E A L T H S  
R E W A R D D S G N O I O E D  
B A D D I S A S T E R G B E L  
E S S I N G P U B I S H H P M  
E N T T R I G A L S R T E W A  
R D S G C H I L D R E N O O D  
B A D D O I V S A S T I E R B  
L E S S L I E N G P U N B I S  
H M E N L T U T R I A G O N Y  
A L S R A E P W A R D S G O O  
D B A D P D I S A S T E R B L  
E S S I S N G P U B I S H M E  
N T T R E I A L S R E W A R D

## Tuesday

"My friends are so helpful," Job said sarcastically. "God you are so powerful, you created everything and control everything. God, you have taken away my rights but still I will speak no evil about you nor will I lie, I am innocent, my conscience is clear. People have so much knowledge, but where can they find wisdom? Only God has wisdom. God gave me so many blessings; I was rich, I was respected; now I am despised." Job went on to say that if he had sinned in this way or that way that he would accept appropriate punishment.

A young man named Elihu had been listening and now he spoke angrily, "You are all fools, I thought because you were older you would be wise but now I will answer. Job: You can never understand God." He went on presenting many arguments of how great God is and how He would help those who turned to Him. He accused Job of arrogance and reminded him of God's justice and righteousness. He went on for so long that it took 6 chapters in the Bible to record all he said!

Then God finally answered Job. God asked Job where he was when the things of the world were created, or if he understood how God controlled the things of nature or whether could do it himself. God spoke of many of the animals He had made - each one unique and special, including two that we do not see today in chapter 40 and 41 - probably what we would call dinosaurs! Job could not argue with God and agreed that God could do anything.

The God said He was angry with Job's friends - they had not spoken truly. God blessed Job again and in the second half of his life he became even richer than before and had another ten children; he lived another 140 years.

Many people believe that bad things happen as punishment for sin. When Jesus and His disciples met a blind man in John chapter 9<sub>NLT</sub>, the disciples asked "why was this man born blind? Was it because of his own sins or his parents' sins?" What did Jesus say?

In fact, God had allowed the man to be born blind so that Jesus could heal him!

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## Wednesday

Do you ever feel like bad things are happening to you for no reason? - Things that you don't deserve? YES / NO

Do you ever feel like other people have better luck than you? YES / NO

Do you ever feel like God doesn't exist, or that He isn't listening to you? YES / NO

Have you heard of any bad things that have happened that turned out to be good in the long run? (Ask your friends and family too)

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