## Three Cosmic Messages Ablaze with God's Glory

Lesson #13 for June 24, 2023

Scriptures: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6; John 8:32; Revelation 4:11; 5:6,12; 13:8; 18:1; Exodus 33:18-19.

- 1. Our world seems to be in a lot of chaos. There are so many factions in our country as well as in other countries. Different countries of the world are in opposition to each other. What will bring all these different factions to some common conclusions? The Bible talks about two basic groups: One group is faithfully keeping the seventh-day Sabbath in honor of the Creator and all that He stands for and all that He has done for us in the plan of salvation; the other is a Sunday-keeping group who will be worshiping the beast and the dragon who turns out to be Satan himself! (See Revelation 13.)
- 2. Will faithful Sabbathkeepers be arrested? Even killed? How widespread will this be in the world? What will communistic countries and Muslim countries say or do about this edict? Will they have their own version of anti-Christian laws or edicts? Revelation 13&14 clearly suggest that the whole world will be divided into those two camps.
- 3. If it becomes illegal to worship on the seventh-day Sabbath, will Muslim countries use this as an excuse to attack Israel? Could the Seventh-day Adventist Church as an organization continue to exist officially when it becomes illegal to worship on the Sabbath?
- 4. In light of what we read in Revelation 12-14, we believe that God has raised up the Seventh-day Adventist Church to preach this final, end-time message to the world. Do we understand this message clearly? Do we know what it means to *honor God and give Him glory*?

[From the Bible study guide=BSG:] **The focus of our study** ... [will be] **on God's glory**, revealed through His people to lighten this sin-darkened world. Changed by grace, transformed by love, filled with the Holy Spirit, God's last-day church gives His final appeal to this world, and tens of thousands hear and respond to the call. Thus, "this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come" (Matt. 24:14, NKJV).—Adult Teachers Sabbath School Bible Study Guide\* 171.<sup>†‡§</sup>

[BSG:] The great controversy between good and evil in the universe is about God's honor and reputation. Satan, a rebel angel, has declared that God is unjust—that He demands worship but gives little in return. The evil one declares that God's law is arbitrary and restricts our freedom and limits our joy.

Jesus' life, death, and resurrection exploded that myth. The One who created us plunged into this snake pit of a world to redeem us. On the cross, Jesus answered Satan's charges and demonstrated that God is both loving and just. Charmed by His love, concerned about His honor, His end-time people reveal **His glory—His loving, self-sacrificing character**—to a

self-centered, godless world. Thus, the earth will be illuminated by a revelation of the character of God.—Adult Teachers Sabbath School Bible Study Guide\* 172.†‡

- 5. Many years ago, Paul warned the people of Thessalonica in these words:
  - 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6: ¹There is no need to write to you, brothers and sisters, about the times and occasions when these things will happen. ²For you yourselves know very well that the Day of the Lord will come as a thief comes at night. ³When people say, "Everything is quiet and safe," then suddenly destruction will hit them! It will come as suddenly as the pains that come upon a woman in labour, [sic] and people will not escape. ⁴But you, brothers and sisters, are not in the darkness, and the Day should not take you by surprise like a thief. ⁵All of you are people who belong to the light, who belong to the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. ⁵So then, we should not be sleeping like the others; we should be awake and sober.—American Bible Society. (1992). The Holy Bible: The Good News Translation\* (2nd ed., 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6). New York: American Bible Society [abbreviated as Good News Bible].†‡
- 6. Are we really children of the light? Are we studying the signs of the second coming? Do we see events taking place in our world that suggest to us that time is coming to an end? What do we do with prophecies that we cannot tie to a specific date? Who will be taken by surprise like having a thief come upon them without warning? Who will be awake and sober and aware of the signs of the end of the world? (See Isaiah 25:9.)
- 7. Will Seventh-day Adventists need another prophet to warn us of what is coming? Or, have we had all the warnings that we need? Jesus Himself repeatedly warned us to watch and keep awake. (Matthew 24:42; 26:40-41)
  - **Matthew 24:42**: "Be on your guard, then, because you do not know what day your Lord will come."—*Good News Bible*.\*
  - **Matthew 26:40-41**: <sup>40</sup> Then he returned to the three disciples and found them asleep; and he said to Peter, "How is it that you three were not able to keep watch with me even for one hour? <sup>41</sup>Keep watch and pray that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."—*Good News Bible*.\*<sup>†</sup>
- 8. Is it likely that the three disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane were just physically tired and sleepy? Or, was Satan using his skills in making them sleepy? Is Satan capable of lulling us to sleep when we should be awake to the signs developing around us?
  - [From the writings of Ellen G. White=EGW:] We who know the truth should be preparing for what is soon to break upon the world as an overwhelming surprise.—Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church*,\* vol. 8, 28.1.‡
- 9. Seventh-day Adventists and our adventist predecessors have preached the messages of Daniel 2 and Daniel 7 for more than 170 years. We believe that history has been foretold in these messages. The truth culminates with the second coming of Jesus Christ,

- represented by that Rock carved out of the mountain which completely fills the earth and eliminates and destroys all human governments and nations.
- 10. God has used dreams to great advantage in the past. Could He ever use them again in the future? Or, have we reached a place where we no longer consider dreams of any real significance? Is that true in all parts of our world today?
- 11. The Seventh-day Adventist Church would not exist if it were not for the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation and the additional insights we have been given by Ellen White.
  - [EGW:] When the books of Daniel and Revelation are better understood, believers will have an entirely different religious experience. They will be given such glimpses of the open gates of heaven that heart and mind will be impressed in regard to the character all must develop in order to realize the blessedness which is to be the reward of the pure in heart. The Lord will bless all who will seek humbly and meekly to understand that which is revealed in the Revelation. This book contains so much that is large with immortality and full of glory that all who read and search it earnestly receive the blessing to those "that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein."

One thing will certainly be understood from the study of Revelation—that the connection between God and His people is close and decided.—Ellen G. White, *Manuscript Releases*,\* vol. 18, 24.2-3 [Letter 16, 1900, written January 27, 1900, from "Sunnyside," Cooranbong, NSW, to F. E. Belden, *Review and Herald*, Battle Creek, Michigan]; *Testimonies to Ministers*\*€ 114.3-5; *The Faith I Live By*\*€ 345.3.†‡

- 12. If we are supposed to be awake and if we are supposed to know the truth, where can we find it?
  - John 7:17: [Jesus said:] "Whoever is willing to do what God wants will know whether what I teach comes from God or whether I speak on my own authority."—Good News Bible.\*†‡
  - **John 8:32**: [Jesus said:] "You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."— *Good News Bible*.\*‡
- 13. Are we fully aware of the errors in doctrines and teachings found in the apostate churches? Do we know how to respond to those errors by carefully studying the Bible? The second angel, which we will focus on in this study, clearly encourages us to search the Scripture for ourselves.
- 14. As Seventh-day Adventists, we have often referred to ourselves as those people who have accepted the third angel's message.
  - [BSG:] The third angel's message, which follows the first two angels', presents a warning against the mark of the beast. Throughout the prophecies of the Bible, a beast represents a political or religious power. The sea beast of Revelation 13 and 14 arises out of Rome as a

worldwide system of worship. Eventually this Roman power extends its influence over the whole world and will lead out in a movement to unite church and state. The goal will be to achieve world unity at a time of economic upheaval, natural catastrophes, social turmoil, international political crisis, and global conflict.—Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide\* for Monday, June 19.†‡ [Is that talking about our day?]‡

- 15. Is there any world-wide organization that is quietly working on plans to unite churches and governments around the world to support its cause?
- 16. The wording in Revelation 13 is scary. Could it really be true that essentially the entire world will be worshiping the Devil? (Revelation 13:1-4,7-8) Could this cause them to turn on God's faithful people, threatening them with the inability to buy or sell and even death?
- 17. Seventh-day Adventists have suggested that apostate Protestantism centered in the United States will impact our government and eventually lead in this global confederation.

[EGW:] Through the two great errors, the immortality of the soul and Sunday sacredness, Satan will bring the people under his deceptions. While the former lays the foundation of spiritualism, the latter creates a bond of sympathy with Rome. The Protestants of the United States will be foremost in stretching their hands across the gulf to grasp the hand of spiritualism; they will reach over the abyss to clasp hands with the Roman power; and under the influence of this threefold union, this country will follow in the steps of Rome in trampling on the rights of conscience.—Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*\* 588.1.†‡ [Wow!]‡

- 18. Is it any wonder that God calls for us to be faithful and to endure?
- 19. John 8:32 (*NKJV*\*) tells us that "the truth shall make you free." Does that mean free from the deceptions and misrepresentations of Satan? Does it finally mean to be free from the torture, threats, imprisonment, and death that we know are coming from Satan and his earthly associates at the end of time? Jesus said, "I am ... the truth." (John 14:6, *GNB*\*)
- 20. A study of the history of the Protestant Reformation teaches us that the reformers had studied their Bibles very carefully and tried to lead people out of the errors of the apostate church. Martin Luther himself realized that the seventh-day was God's true day for worship; however, he decided not to buck the traditions of the dominant church on that point.
- 21. Revelation 18:1 tells us that the entire world is going to be enlightened with God's glory.

Revelation 18:1-4: <sup>1</sup> After this I saw another angel coming down out of heaven. He had great authority, and his splendour [sic] brightened the whole earth. <sup>2</sup>He cried out in a loud voice: "She has fallen! Great Babylon has fallen! She is now haunted by demons and unclean spirits; all kinds of filthy and hateful birds live in her. <sup>3</sup>For all the nations have drunk her wine—the strong wine of her immoral lust. The kings of the earth practiced sexual immorality with her, and the merchants of the world grew rich from her unrestrained lust."

<sup>4</sup> Then I heard another voice from heaven, saying:

"Come out, my people! Come out from her!
You must not take part in her sins;
you must not share in her punishment!"—Good News Bible.\*†‡

22. How will this actually take place? And what will it mean? How many people will be aware of this when it happens? Revelation 18 goes on to say that the kings of the earth took part in Babylon's immorality and lust. What does that mean?

[From the *SDA Bible Commentary*:] In [Revelation] ch. 18 Babylon is arraigned before the bar of divine justice on five counts: (1) pride and arrogance, (2) materialism and luxury, (3) adultery, (4) deception, and (5) persecution (see vs. 2, 3, 5, 7, 23, 24).—Nichol, F. D. (Ed.). (1980). *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*,\* vol. 7, 861, par. 15. Review and Herald Publishing Association.<sup>‡</sup>

- 23. Revelation 18:1 reflects a message that was given just before the Babylonian captivity. **Habakkuk 2:14**: But the earth will be as full of the knowledge of the LORD's glory as the seas are full of water.—*Good News Bible*.\*
- 24. Revelation 18:1 suggests that an angel will come down from heaven with great authority. Do we have any previous examples of this kind of message? Notice what authority Jesus gave His disciples. Will He give similar authority to His end-time people?
  - Matthew 10:1: Jesus called his twelve disciples together and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and every sickness.—

    Good News Bible.\*†
  - Matthew 10:7-8: <sup>7</sup> "Go and preach, 'The Kingdom of heaven is near!' <sup>8</sup>Heal the sick, bring the dead back to life, heal those who suffer from dreaded skin diseases, and drive out demons. You have received without paying, so give without being paid."—*Good News Bible*.\*<sup>†</sup> [Could we do that?]<sup>‡</sup>
- 25. Why didn't our Bible study guide cite Matthew 10:7-8 as well as Matthew 10:1?
  - **Matthew 28:18-20**: <sup>18</sup>Jesus drew near and said to them, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. <sup>19</sup>Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples: baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And I will be with you always, to the end of the age."—*Good News Bible*.\*
- 26. So, whose authority will we recognize in our own lives? God's? Or, the Devil's?
- 27. Revelation 4:11; 5:12; 19:1; and 21:26 associate God's glory with certain other very important words. They suggest that because God has created us, He should be worthy of honor, power, wealth, wisdom, strength, and praise.
- 28. As we have suggested on many occasions, the great controversy over God's character and government is a contest between God and Satan about who can run a better universe. Satan has done everything he can to misrepresent God's character and government. But, as this world comes to an end, it will be demonstrated what would happen if Satan were allowed to be in charge!

- 29. The truth about God and His government was demonstrated convincingly and without any questions remaining by the life and death of Jesus Christ.
- 30. What is God's glory, and how is it revealed?

Exodus 33:18-19: <sup>18</sup> Then Moses requested, "Please, let me see the dazzling light of your presence."

<sup>19</sup> The LORD answered, "I will make all my splendour [sic] pass before you and in your presence I will pronounce my sacred name. I am the LORD, and I show compassion and pity on those I choose."—Good News Bible.\*†‡ [What did Moses see, hear, and experience?]‡

[BSG:] To answer this question [of how God's glory will be revealed], let us consider an experience of Moses. Remember when Moses asked God to show him His glory? What did God reveal? Let's read God's answer to Moses' question: "And he said, 'Please, show me Your glory.' Then He said, 'I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion' " (Exod. 33:18, 19, NKJV). God's glory is His character.—Adult Teachers Sabbath School Bible Study Guide\* 172.†\$

31. So, what did God reveal to Moses when Moses asked to see God's glory? **God's glory** is the truth about His character. We ourselves have no glory. We are not ultimately responsible for good works, or righteousness, or goodness.

[EGW:] The Lord God of heaven will not send upon the world His judgments for disobedience and transgression until He has sent His watchmen to give the warning. He will not close up the period of probation until the message shall be more distinctly proclaimed. The law of God is to be magnified; its claims must be presented in their true, sacred character, that the people may be brought to decide for or against the truth. Yet the work will be cut short in righteousness. 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.—Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church*,\* vol. 6, 19.1.†‡

32. After the great General Conference session of 1888, there was much discussion about what is justification by faith and what is the core message of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Notice these words from Ellen White.

[EGW:] What is justification by faith?—It is the work of God in laying the glory of man in the dust, and doing for man that which it is not in his power to do for himself. When men see their own nothingness, they are prepared to be clothed with the righteousness of Christ. When they begin to praise and exalt God all the day long, then by beholding they are becoming changed into the same image. What is regeneration?—It is revealing to man what is his own real nature, that in himself he is worthless.—Ellen G. White, Special Testimonies for Ministers and Workers\* [Series A, No. 9, 1897]

- 62.2; Manuscript Releases,\*¶ vol. 20, 117.3.†‡ Compare Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers 456.3; FLB 111.2.
- 33. What do these words mean? Yet, we can become partakers of the divine nature!
- 34. In the book of Revelation, there are many symbols and signs. As we come to the end of this series, let us see if we can nail down what some of these symbols stand for.
  - Revelation 12:3-4,7: <sup>3</sup> Another mysterious sight appeared in the sky. There was a huge red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and a crown on each of his heads. <sup>4</sup>With his tail he dragged a third of the stars out of the sky and threw them down to the earth. He stood in front of the woman, in order to eat her child as soon as it was born.... [That same dragon is talked about in Revelation 17:3.]
    - <sup>7</sup> Then war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, who fought back with his angels.—*Good News Bible*.\*<sup>†‡</sup>
- 35. Clearly, this *huge red dragon* is none other than Lucifer, now Satan himself, God's open opponent.
- 36. One of the interesting symbols that appears repeatedly in Revelation is *the Lamb*. Why is this symbolism so important? And repeated so often? Read Revelation 5:6,8,12; 7:17; 14:1; 15:3; 19:7; 21:22-23; and 22:1-3. In these verses we see a Lamb who has been brutally slaughtered, now standing in the midst of the throne of God in the center of heaven. And He is being praised by all around Him. Is this because He has won the great controversy on behalf of all beings in the universe?
- 37. The book of Revelation opens by telling us that it is a revelation of Jesus Christ. We are told that **Jesus Christ is the Lamb**. He is the Lamb who was brutally slaughtered to demonstrate how Satan would treat anyone who tries to oppose him.
  - [BSG:] Of course, as the opening words of the book say, this is a revelation "of Jesus Christ." And not only is He a Lamb but also a Lamb "slain" (*Rev. 5:6, 12; Rev. 13:8*). That is, Jesus Christ crucified. Here is the heart and soul, not only of all the Bible but also of the book of Revelation and of the three angels' messages. We cannot be faithful to our calling, we cannot do the work that God has raised up this church to do, unless we have the Lamb, the slain Lamb, Jesus crucified, a sacrifice for our sins, as the focal point of our message.—*Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide\** for Thursday, June 22.‡§
  - [BSG:] "We must intentionally place the Lamb that was slain at the very center of our doctrines and mission and at the heart of every sermon we preach, every article we write, every prayer we make, every song we sing, every Bible study we give, and in everything we do. Let the love revealed by the Lamb on the cross transform the way we treat each other and move us to also care for the world."—Ángel Manuel Rodríguez, "The Closing of the Cosmic Conflict: Role of the Three Angels' Messages," unpublished manuscript, p. 70.—[as quoted in *Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide*\* for Thursday, June 22].†‡

38. What will be the result of all of this as we approach the final days of this world's history?

[EGW:] Servants of God, with **their faces lighted up and shining with holy consecration**, will hasten from place to place to proclaim the message from heaven. By thousands of voices, all over the earth, the warning will be given. Miracles will be wrought, the sick will be healed, and signs and wonders will follow the believers. Satan also works, with lying wonders, even bringing down fire from heaven in the sight of men. Revelation 13:13. Thus the inhabitants of the earth will be brought to take their stand.

The message will be carried not so much by argument as by the deep conviction of the Spirit of God. The arguments have been presented. The seed has been sown, and now it will spring up and bear fruit. The publications distributed by missionary workers have exerted their influence, yet many whose minds were impressed have been prevented from fully comprehending the truth or from yielding obedience. Now the rays of light penetrate everywhere, the truth is seen in its clearness, and the honest children of God sever the bands which have held them. Family connections, church relations, are powerless to stay them now. Truth is more precious than all besides. Notwithstanding the agencies combined against the truth, a large number take their stand upon the Lord's side.—Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy\** 612.1-2.†‡

- 39. What could actually cause this to happen?
- 40. What is the relationship between justification by faith and all that we have learned in Revelation 12-14?
- 41. Seventh-day Adventists have been emphasizing the keeping of God's commandments since the first days of our movement. Of course, this is because we read Revelation 12:17 and Revelation 14:12. Does this mean that we are legalists?
- 42. What world events do you see happening today that hint that we are moving closer and closer to the final days of this world's history? Look again at Paul's words.
  - **1 Thessalonians 5:4-6**: <sup>4</sup>But you, brothers and sisters, are not in the darkness, and the Day should not take you by surprise like a thief. <sup>5</sup>All of you are people who belong to the light, who belong to the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. <sup>6</sup>So then, we should not be sleeping like the others; we should be awake and sober.—*Good News Bible*.\*
- 43. The world is asleep and will be taken by complete surprise when events happen that lead to the second coming. But, we are not supposed to be asleep. We have been more than adequately warned.
- 44. Jesus has done everything He can to refute Satan's arguments. Who is telling the truth?
- 45. What will it be like when the Holy Spirit is poured out in His fullness on this earth? Will only the faithful be aware of it?
  - [BSG:] The Holy Spirit will be poured out in the fullness of His power just before the coming of Jesus, and the earth will be lightened with the glory of

God. Revelation 18:1 is a fulfillment of the Old Testament prophet Habakkuk's words: "For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea" (Hab. 2:14, NKJV). As we just commented, **the glory of God is His character of love**. But this assertion begs a question: How will this glory be revealed in the last moments of history on a morally darkened [sic], sin-polluted planet?—Adult Teachers Sabbath School Bible Study Guide\* 172.†‡§ [Remember what happened when Moses asked to see God's glory. See Item #30 above.]‡

- **Revelation 18:1**: [Reading again:] After this I saw another angel coming down out of heaven. He had great authority, and his splendour [*sic*] brightened the whole earth.—*Good News Bible*.\*‡ [How will that actually take place?]‡
- **Habakkuk 2:14**: [Reading again:] But the earth will be as full of the knowledge of the LORD's glory as the seas are full of water.—*Good News Bible*.\*<sup>‡</sup>
- 46. In the end, God will be calling His people to come out of every lawbreaking church. (Revelation 18:1-4) Does this remind you of anything? This is exactly what happened in the days of Noah! God sent a message to the antediluvian world. When it was clear that each person had made up his/her mind about where s/he was going to stand on the issues, Noah and his family got in the boat; then, the flood came. Spiritual Babylon in our day will do the same thing. Demonic forces are building and will eventually take control of modern, spiritual Babylon. *Babylon's wine* represents false teachings and false doctrines.

[BSG:] Demonic forces will eventually take total control of modern, spiritual Babylon. She becomes "a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit" (Rev. 18:2, NKJV). God's people are filled with the Holy Spirit, and, by contrast, the spirits of demons fill Babylon. When any individual or religious organization knowingly turns from the teachings of Scripture, they become open to spiritual delusions. The only way to avoid being controlled by unholy spirits is to be controlled by the Holy Spirit.—Adult Teachers Sabbath School Bible Study Guide\* 173.†‡§

- 47. Revelation 18:3 (*NKJV*\*) tells us that "all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication."
  - **Revelation 18:3**: "For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury."—New King James Version.\*
    - [BSG:] Fornication is an illicit union. There are three groups who unite in this illicit union, or end-time confederacy: Babylon (all false religions of the world, including spiritualism, in league with the papal power), the kings of the earth (political/state powers), and the merchants of the earth (economic forces). Speaking about the union of church and state that is coming, Ellen G. White [warned us.]...—Adult Teachers Sabbath School Bible Study Guide\* 174.†‡

[EGW:] By the decree enforcing the institution of the papacy in violation of the law of God, our nation will disconnect herself fully from righteousness. When Protestantism shall stretch her hand across the gulf to grasp the hand of the Roman power, when she shall reach over the abyss to clasp hands with spiritualism, when, under the influence of this threefold union, our country shall repudiate every principle of its Constitution as a Protestant and republican government, and shall make provision for the propagation of papal falsehoods and delusions, then we may know that the time has come for the marvelous working of Satan and that the end is near.

As the approach of the Roman armies was a sign to the disciples of the impending destruction of Jerusalem, so may this apostasy be a sign to us that the limit of God's forbearance is reached, that the measure of our nation's iniquity is full, and that the angel of mercy is about to take her flight, never to return.—Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church*,\* vol. 5, 451.1-2.†

48. God's glory will be manifest in a way that has not been seen since the days of Pentecost. The Holy Spirit will be manifest through God's faithful people all over the world.

[BSG:] Stated another way, the two most important things in life are being ready for the coming of Jesus and helping others to be ready when He comes.—Adult Teachers Sabbath School Bible Study Guide\* 174.†‡

[BSG:] Is there anything that I would rather have than Jesus? If so, what is this "idol"? What occupies my time? How do I spend my leisure moments? What consumes my inmost thoughts?

In what ways does my life reflect my outward profession of faith? How do my actions testify to my spiritual commitment?

If Jesus came today, would I be ready? If not, why not?

Does Christ have complete control of my life? If He doesn't, what is standing in the way, and what can I, with the Holy Spirit's help, do about it?—Adult Teachers Sabbath School Bible Study Guide\* 175.‡ [Bold type is in the Bible study guide.]‡

49. How would you answer these questions just between you and your God!

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