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Scriptures, Questions, & AssignmenT

1. What did you learn from your study of Isaiah 43 this past week?
2. What impact have the writings of Ellen White had on your spiritual life? Why?

Great Controversy, Introduction: *The Spirit was not given – nor can it ever be bestowed – to supersede the Bible; for the Scriptures explicitly state that the Word of God is the standard by which all teaching and experience must be tested ... Isaiah declares, “To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them” (Isaiah 8:20).*
([Great Controversy, Introduction, vii](#))

Manuscript 43, 1901: *“I exalt the precious Word before you today. Do not repeat what I have said, saying, ‘Sister White said this,’ and ‘Sister White said that.’ Find out what the Lord God of Israel says, and then do what He commands.”* ([Manuscript 43, 1901](#))

Early Writings, page 78: *I recommend to you, dear reader, the Word of God as the rule of your faith and practice. By that Word we are to be judged. God has, in that Word, promised to give visions in the “last days”; not for a new rule of faith, but for the comfort of his people, and to correct those who err from Bible truth. Thus God dealt with Peter when he was about to send him to preach to the Gentiles.* ([Early Writings, page 78](#))

Steps to Christ, page 62: *The condition of eternal life is now just what it always has been – just what it was in Paradise before the fall of our first parents – perfect obedience to the law of God, perfect righteousness. If eternal life were granted on any condition short of this, then the happiness of the whole universe would be imperiled. The way would be open for sin, with all its train of woe*

and misery, to be immortalized. It was possible for Adam, before the fall, to form a righteous character by obedience to God's law. But he failed to do this, and because of his sin our natures are fallen and we cannot make ourselves righteous. Since we are sinful, unholy, we cannot perfectly obey the holy law. We have no righteousness of our own with which to meet the claims of the law of God.

But Christ has made a way of escape for us. He lived on earth amid trials and temptations such as we have to meet. He lived a sinless life. He died for us, and now He offers to take our sins and give us His righteousness. If you give yourself to Him, and accept Him as your Saviour, then, sinful as your life may have been, for His sake you are accounted righteous. Christ's character stands in place of your character, and you are accepted before God just as if you had not sinned. (Steps to Christ, page 62)

Desire of Ages, pages 328-329: *The Elder Brother of our race is by the eternal throne. He looks upon every soul who is turning his face toward Him as the Saviour. He knows by experience what are the weaknesses of humanity, what are our wants, and where lies the strength of our temptations; for He was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. He is watching over you, trembling child of God. Are you tempted? He will deliver. Are you weak? He will strengthen. Are you ignorant? He will enlighten. Are you wounded? He will heal ... "Come unto Me," is His invitation. Whatever your anxieties and trials, spread out your case before the Lord. Your spirit will be braced for endurance. The way will be opened for you to disentangle yourself from embarrassment and difficulty. The weaker and more helpless you know yourself to be, the stronger will you become in His strength. The heavier your burdens, the more blessed the rest in casting them upon the Burden Bearer. (Desire of Ages, pages 328-329)*

Assignment

Spend a bit of time this week considering the prophetic passage found in [Ezekiel 36](#).

- This week, read [Ezekiel 36](#) through several times – try reading it in several different translations.
- What do you find comforting in this passage?
- Is there anything about this passage that makes you uncomfortable? Why do you think that is?
- What promises do you see in this passage?
- What does this passage tell you about God?
- What is the most important message you see?
- How will what you have learned affect the way you live your life? Why?

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