



SAVED TO SERVE

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G.C. PT.10: PROGRESS OF REFORM IN GERMANY

1a. Let us study chapter 10 of *The Great Controversy*, entitled “Progress of Reform in Germany.”

1b. Note: The Progress of Reform in Germany typifies the progress of reform in the Seventh-day Adventist Denomination and in the world, leading up to and during the Sunday Law crisis. Additionally, as Satan worked to introduce a counterfeit to regress and hinder the Reformation of Luther, so he is working to counterfeit God’s work in these last days.

2. Describe the general feelings, words, and actions of Luther’s supporters and enemies, while Luther was in seclusion? _____

Luther’s mysterious disappearance excited consternation throughout all Germany. Inquiries concerning him were heard everywhere. The wildest rumors were circulated, and many believed that he had been murdered. **There was great lamentation, not only by his avowed friends, but by thousands who had not openly taken their stand with the Reformation.** Many bound themselves by a solemn oath to avenge his death. {GC 185.1} The Romish leaders saw with terror to what a pitch had risen the feeling against them.

Though at first exultant at the supposed death of Luther, they soon desired to hide from the wrath of the people. {GC 185.2}

3. Note: This should remind us of the movement after Jesus’ death, burial, resurrection, and ascension. After Jesus was removed from the people, and the apostles went forth preaching, thousands of people took their stand publicly for the truth who did not do so while Jesus was bodily with them. **See Acts 2:36,41,47; Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea (John 3:1,2; John 7:50-53 and John 19:38-41.)**

4. Note: The enemies of Jesus thought that by killing Jesus they would have put an end to His movement. However, they soon realized that they had more than just one man to deal with, more than just 12 disciples to deal with; now they had thousands to deal with who joined the Christian movement. **See Acts 4:1-4.**

5. What did the enemies of the truth say? Acts 5:28 _____

6. Note: The following is a future application. After the Sunday Law is enforced with persecution for the saints, the enemies of the faith will be surprised to see that many people will join the truth, more than what they expected to deal with. **See Revelation 18:1-4.**

7a. Compare the following two quotations and **John 4:34-38 and John 14:12.**

The tidings that he was safe, though a prisoner, calmed the fears of the people, while it still further aroused their enthusiasm in his favor. His writings were read with greater eagerness than ever before. **Increasing numbers joined the cause of the heroic man who had, at such fearful odds, defended the word of God.** The Reformation was constantly gaining in strength. **The seed which Luther had sown sprang up everywhere.** His absence accomplished a work which his presence would have failed to do. **Other laborers felt a new responsibility, now that their great leader was removed.** With new faith and earnestness they pressed forward to do all in their power, that the work so nobly begun might not be hindered. {GC 185.3}

The disciples were astonished and overjoyed at the greatness of the harvest of souls. **They did not regard this wonderful ingathering as the result of their own efforts; they realized that they were entering into other men’s labors.** Ever since the fall of Adam, Christ had been committing to chosen servants the seed of His word, to be sown in human hearts. **During His life on this earth He had sown the seed of truth and had watered it with His blood. The conversions that took place on the Day of Pentecost were the result of this sowing, the harvest of Christ’s work, revealing the power of His teaching.** {AA 44.4}

7b. Note: Jesus sowed the seeds of truth before His crucifixion on the cross; then after the cross, the disciples reaped the harvest of souls. Likewise, we should sow the seeds of truth found in Revelation 14:6-12 before the Sunday Law is enforced, so that after the Sunday Law is enforced, a harvest of souls may be prepared for the Second Coming of Jesus. See Revelation 14:14-16.

8. What did Satan do to hinder the Reformation, to deceive, and to destroy the people? _____

But Satan was not idle. He now attempted what he has attempted in every other reformatory movement--to deceive and destroy the people **by palming off upon them a counterfeit in place of the true work.** As there were false christs in the first century of the Christian church, **so there arose false prophets in the sixteenth century.** {GC 186.1}

9a. Note: Before and during the Sunday Law crisis, Satan will introduce a counterfeit movement, counterfeit doctrines, in the Seventh-day Adventist Denomination, in the apostate Protestant denominations, and in the world. Read the following **Matthew 24:3,4,24; 2 Peter 2:1-3; 2 Timothy 4:1-4.**

9b. **“Notwithstanding the widespread declension of faith and piety, there are true followers of Christ in these churches. Before the final visitation of God’s judgments upon the earth there will be among the people of the Lord such a revival of primitive godliness as has not been witnessed since apostolic times.** The Spirit and power of God will be poured out upon His children. **At that time many will separate themselves from those churches in which the love of this world has supplanted love for God and His word.** Many, both of ministers and people, will gladly accept those great truths which God has caused to be proclaimed at this time to prepare a people for the Lord’s second coming. **The enemy of souls desires to hinder this work; and before the time for such a movement shall come, he will endeavor to prevent it by introducing a counterfeit.** In those churches which he can bring under his deceptive power he will make it appear that God’s special blessing is poured out; there will be manifest what is thought to be great religious interest. **Multitudes will exult that God is working marvelously for them, when the work is that of another spirit. Under a religious guise, Satan will seek to extend his influence over the Christian world.**” {GC 464.1}

9c. Note: Satan will work to introduce a counterfeit in the churches of Babylon so that they will reject truth, according to the above statement. Additionally, Satan will introduce a counterfeit within the Seventh-day Adventist Churches to hinder the Reformation. To confirm, read the following.

The enemy of souls has sought to bring in the supposition that a great reformation was to take place among Seventh-day Adventists, and that this reformation would consist in giving up the doctrines which stand as the pillars of our faith, and engaging in a process of reorganization. Were this reformation to take place, what would result? The principles of truth that God in His wisdom has given to the remnant church, would be discarded. Our religion would be changed. The fundamental principles that have sustained the work for the last fifty years would be accounted as error. A new organization would be established. Books of a new order would be written. A system of intellectual philosophy would be introduced. **The founders of this system would go into the cities, and do a wonderful work. The Sabbath of course, would be lightly regarded, as also the God who created it. Nothing would be allowed to stand in the way of the new movement. The leaders would teach that virtue is better than vice, but God being removed, they would place their dependence on human power, which, without God, is worthless. **Their foundation would be built on the sand, and storm and tempest would sweep away the structure.** {1SM 204.2}**

10a. What did the so-called reformers do, who were a part of the counterfeit revival? _____

A few men, deeply affected by the excitement in the religious world, imagined themselves to have received special revelations from Heaven, and claimed to have been divinely commissioned to carry forward to its completion the Reformation which, they declared, had been but feebly begun by Luther. In truth, they were undoing the very work which he had accomplished. They rejected the great principle which was the very foundation of the Reformation--that the word of God is the all-sufficient rule of faith and practice; and for that unerring guide they substituted the changeable, uncertain standard of their own feelings and impressions. By this act of setting aside the great detector of error and falsehood the way was opened for Satan to control minds as best pleased himself. {GC 186.2}

10b. Note: The following is a fulfillment of the above quotation.

Angel M. Rodriguez wrote the following that was voted and accepted by the world church of Seventh-day Adventists, during the General Conference session of 2005.

"The resolution notes the study of Mrs. White's writings "will constantly lead the Church back to the Bible as the very foundation of faith and practice." Dr. Angel Manuel Rodriguez, Biblical Research Institute director, said that for Adventist Christians, the "Bible is the fundamental ground of the Adventist faith and practice." He added that the gift exercised by Ellen G. White "can enrich but not define our faith and practice." <https://news.adventist.org/en/all-news/news/go/2005-07-02/world-church-spirit-of-prophecy-resolution-voted-points-church-to-bible/>

10c. **The Previous Statement Regarding the Writings of Ellen White and Her Role**

"One of the gifts of the Holy Spirit is prophecy. This gift is an identifying mark of the remnant church and was manifested in the ministry of Ellen. G. White. As the Lord's messenger, her writings are a continuing and authoritative source of truth which provide for the church comfort, guidance, instruction, and correction."

The Changed Statement From The General Conference Session 2015

"The Scriptures testify that one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit is prophecy. This gift is an identifying mark of the remnant church and we believe it was manifested in the ministry of Ellen G. White. Her writings speak with prophetic authority and provide comfort, guidance, and instruction, and correction to the church." <https://www.adventist.org/en/beliefs/church/the-gift-of-prophecy/>

10d. **Satan is . . . constantly pressing in the spurious--to lead away from the truth. The very last deception of Satan will be to make of none effect the testimony of the Spirit of God. "Where there is no vision, the people perish" (Proverbs 29:18). Satan will work ingeniously, in different ways and through different agencies, to unsettle the confidence of God's remnant people in the true testimony. There will be a hatred kindled against the testimonies which is satanic. The workings of Satan will be to unsettle the faith of the churches in them, for this reason: Satan cannot have so clear a track to bring in his deceptions and bind up souls in his delusions if the warnings and reproofs and counsels of the Spirit of God are heeded."** {1SM 48.3}

11a. What did the so-called reformers say, who were a part of the counterfeit revival?

The leaders of the movement proceeded to Wittenberg and urged their claims upon Melancthon and his colaborers. Said they: "We are sent by God to instruct the people. We have held familiar conversations with the Lord; we know what will happen; in a word, we are apostles and prophets, and appeal to Dr. Luther." {GC 187.1}

One of these prophets claimed to have been instructed by the angel Gabriel. {GC 186.3}

11b. Notice how Dwight Nelson, a Seventh-day Adventist pastor of Pioneer Memorial Church, on the campus of Andrews' University, is proclaiming falsehood as it relates to the angel Gabriel. Dwight Nelson emphatically and passionately stated in a sermon he delivered in 2010, titled "Star still rising over Islam," "Allah is the name of the living God, Allah is the creator of the Universe, Allah is the God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Ishmael...**The Quaran teaches the seeds of every divine truth you and I embrace. The seeds are all there.**" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gdy11FvjSEY>

11c. In case some may be wondering whether Pastor Dwight Nelson has abandoned his position of Allah as God and that the Quaran teaches the seeds of every divine truth, in his 2016 devotional for adults, *God's Dream for You* (published by the Pacific Press, in three languages and sold at Adventist Book Stores around the world), he stated on page 301 the following: "And who was Muhammad? He was born into the polytheistic Quraish tribe in Mecca around A.D. 570. Soon orphaned and raised by an uncle, at age 25 Muhammad married a wealthy widow. Fifteen years later in a cave he received a vision from **the angel Gabriel,** visions that continued for 12 years. In obedience to the angel, Muhammad began to teach that there was only one true God, Allah...Twenty years after his death his visions were transcribed and codified into the Qur'an. **Could it be that into the darkness of paganism God ignited the faint light of truth?**" Nelson, Dwight, *God's Dream for You* (2016), page 301.

11d. Note: Read Acts 20:24-31 and the following quotation: "When teachers or professors shall sacrifice religious principle to please a worldly, amusement-loving class, **they should be considered unfaithful to their trust and should be discharged.**" {5T 14.2}

11e. Note: We have SDA leaders who are proponents of revival and reformation, yet they allow, directly and indirectly, pastors and professors to be paid from God's holy tithes, who are the killers of God's true revival and reformation.

11f. Note: We have to be very careful of movements and leaders among Seventh-day Adventists where men are rising up and stating that they have received "revelations" from the Lord; and that they are sent by God to lead His people. **Just remember Isaiah 8:20.**

12. From where did the worse enemies of the Reformation rise? What did Luther pray? What brought him out of seclusion?

From the professed friends of the Reformation had risen its worst enemies. The very truths which had brought him so great joy and consolation were being employed to stir up strife and create confusion in the church. {GC 187.4}

And now Wittenberg itself, the very center of the Reformation, was fast falling under the power of fanaticism and lawlessness... "The work is not mine, but Thine own," he said; "Thou wilt not suffer it to be corrupted by superstition or fanaticism." **But the thought of remaining longer from the conflict in such a crisis, became insupportable. He determined to return to Wittenberg.** {GC 188.2}

13a. What errors laid at the foundation of the counterfeit movement? _____

The proceedings of these enthusiasts created no little excitement. **The preaching of Luther had aroused the people everywhere to feel the necessity of reform, and now some really honest persons were misled by the pretensions of the new prophets.**

{GC 186.3}

13b. How may we discern the counterfeit revival in these last days? _____

In many of the revivals which have occurred during the last half century, the same influences have been at work, to a greater or less degree, that will be manifest in the more extensive movements of the future. **There is an emotional excitement, a mingling of the true with the false, that is well adapted to mislead. Yet none need be deceived.** In the light of God's word it is not difficult to determine the nature of these movements. **Wherever men neglect the testimony of the Bible, turning away from those plain, soul-testing truths which require self-denial and renunciation of the world, there we may be sure that God's blessing is not bestowed.** And by the rule which Christ Himself has given, "Ye shall know them by their fruits" (Matthew 7:16), it is evident that these movements are not the work of the Spirit of God. {GC 464.2}

13c. Retired Associate Director of the Ellen G. White Estate at the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventist, Cindy Tutsch. "I've been to the One project three times... **What I Missed: any positive references to: the three angels' messages of Revelation 14; the concept of a remnant raised up by Christ for a specific purpose in time;** creation in seven literal contiguous 24 hour periods, an act of God which precedes predation; **Ellen White's book, The Great Controversy; the pre-Advent judgment...** a **Christ whose overwhelming grace inspires holiness in lifestyle and affects our choices in dress, food and drink, entertainment, and sexuality;** and the prophetic portions of Daniel and Revelation." <http://spectrummagazine.org/article/2016/09/27/response-william-johnsson%E2%80%99s-one-project-concerns-and-some-concerns-my-own>

13d. Note: The following is another sign that the counterfeit movement to kill the God's work of reformation is prevalent within most of the SDA churches.

The things you have described as taking place in Indiana, **the Lord has shown me would take place just before the close of probation.** Every uncouth thing will be demonstrated. **There will be shouting, with drums, music, and dancing. The senses of rational beings will become so confused that they cannot be trusted to make right decisions. And this is called the moving of the Holy Spirit.** The Holy Spirit never reveals itself in such methods, in such a bedlam of noise. **This is an invention of Satan to cover up his ingenious methods for making of none effect the pure, sincere, elevating, ennobling, sanctifying truth for this time.** Better never have the worship of God blended with music than to use musical instruments to do the work which last January was represented to me would be brought into our camp meetings. {2SM 36.2}

14a. Who was the most active fanatic? What happened to him and his followers? _____

Thomas Munzer, the most active of the fanatics, was a man of considerable ability, which, rightly directed, would have enabled him to do good; but he had not learned the first principles of true religion. **He was possessed with a desire of reforming the world, and forgot, as all enthusiasts do, that the reformation should begin with himself.**" {GC 191.1}

The fanatical teachers gave themselves up to be governed by impressions, regarding every thought and impulse as the voice of God; consequently they went to great extremes. Some even burned their Bibles, exclaiming: "The letter killeth, but the Spirit giveth life." ... **Munzer's revolutionary teachings, claiming divine sanction, led them to break away from all control and give the rein to their prejudices and passions. The most terrible scenes of sedition and strife followed, and the fields of Germany were drenched with blood.** {GC 191.3}

14b. Note: The above quotation shows a type of what will happen to people today who follow fanatical movements. Their fate will be the seven last plagues and the second death.

15a. Who was blamed for the fanaticism? _____

And now Wittenberg itself, the very center of the Reformation, was fast falling under the power of fanaticism and lawlessness. This terrible condition had not resulted from the teachings of Luther; but throughout Germany his enemies were charging it upon him. {GC 188.2}

15b. The messengers of God who are carrying forward present truth and the true reforms of God will be called fanatics by professed Christians who love the world. While pastors, elders, and teachers who are killing the Reformation will be commended and honored.

"When we reach the standard that the Lord would have us reach, worldlings will regard Seventh-day Adventists as odd, singular, strait-laced extremists. **We are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men.**" {FE 289.1}

15c. Many of the wicked were greatly enraged as they suffered the effects of the plagues. It was a scene of fearful agony. Parents were bitterly reproaching their children, and children their parents, brothers their sisters, and sisters their brothers. Loud, wailing cries were heard in every direction, "It was you who kept me from receiving the truth which would have saved me from this awful hour." The people turned upon their ministers with bitter hate and reproached them, saying, "You have not warned us. You told us that all the world was to be converted, and cried, Peace, peace, to quiet every fear that was aroused. **You have not told us of this hour; and those who warned us of it you declared to be fanatics and evil men, who would ruin us.**" But I saw that the ministers did not escape the wrath of God. Their suffering was tenfold greater than that of their people. {EW 282.1}

16. What did Luther do to win back those who were misguided? _____

Day after day, for a whole week, Luther continued to preach to eager crowds. **The word of God broke the spell of fanatical excitement.** The power of the gospel brought back the misguided people into the way of truth. {GC 190.2}

17. Which church or group of people did Luther despise? _____

May God of His mercy preserve me from a church in which there are none but saints. I desire to dwell with the humble, the feeble, the sick, who know and feel their sins, and who groan and cry continually to God from the bottom of their hearts to obtain His consolation and support." {GC 190.4}

18. What did Luther say regarding the Catholic Mass? _____

"The mass is a bad thing; God is opposed to it; it ought to be abolished; and I would that throughout the whole world it were replaced by the supper of the gospel. But let no one be torn from it by force. We must leave the matter in God's hands. His word must act, and not we. And why so? you will ask. Because I do not hold men's hearts in my hand, as the potter holds the clay. We have a right to speak: we have not the right to act. **Let us preach; the rest belongs unto God.**" {GC 189.4}

19. What did Luther do to overthrow Popery? _____

"I will preach, discuss, and write; but I will constrain none, for faith is a voluntary act. See what I have done. I stood up against the pope, indulgences, and papists, but without violence or tumult. I put forward God's word; I preached and wrote--this was all I did. And yet while I was asleep, . . . **the word that I had preached overthrew popery,** so that neither prince nor emperor has done it so much harm. **And yet I did nothing; the word alone did all.** If I had wished to appeal to force, the whole of Germany would perhaps have been deluged with blood. But what would have been the result? Ruin and desolation both to body and soul. **I therefore kept quiet, and left the word to run through the world alone.**" {GC 190.1}

20. What did Rome summon all of her authority to stop? _____

The priests were alarmed at the thought that the common people would now be able to discuss with them the precepts of God's word, and that their own ignorance would thus be exposed. The weapons of their carnal reasoning were powerless against the sword of the Spirit. **Rome summoned all her authority to prevent the circulation of the Scriptures; but decrees, anathemas, and tortures were alike in vain. The more she condemned and prohibited the Bible, the greater was the anxiety of the people to know what it really taught.** All who could read were eager to study the word of God for themselves. They carried it about with them, and read and reread, and could not be satisfied until they had committed large portions to memory. Seeing the favor with which the New Testament was received, **Luther immediately began the translation of the Old, and published it in parts as fast as completed.** {GC 194.1}

21. How did the Reformation progress? _____

Luther's writings were welcomed alike in city and in hamlet. "What Luther and his friends composed, others circulated. Monks, convinced of the unlawfulness of monastic obligations, desirous of exchanging a long life of slothfulness for one of active exertion, but too ignorant to proclaim the word of God, **traveled through the provinces, visiting hamlets and cottages, where they sold the books of Luther and his friends. Germany soon swarmed with these bold colporteurs.**" {GC 194.2}

These writings were studied with deep interest by rich and poor, the learned and the ignorant. **At night the teachers of the village schools read them aloud to little groups gathered at the fireside.** With every effort some souls would be convicted of the truth and, receiving the word with gladness, **would in their turn tell the good news to others.** {GC 194.3}

When persecution was kindled against the teachers of the truth, they gave heed to the words of Christ: "When they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another." Matthew 10:23. The light penetrated everywhere. **The fugitives would find somewhere a hospitable door opened to them, and there abiding, they would preach Christ, sometimes in the church, or, if denied that privilege, in private houses or in the open air.** Wherever they could obtain a hearing was a consecrated temple. The truth, proclaimed with such energy and assurance, spread with irresistible power. {GC 196.2}

22. What was the effect of Luther's ministry? _____

Persons of all ranks were to be seen with the Bible in their hands, defending the doctrines of the Reformation...Crowds would gather to hear the truth advocated by men of little education, and even discussed by them with learned and eloquent theologians. The shameful ignorance of these great men was made apparent as their arguments were met by the simple teachings of God's word. Laborers, soldiers, women, and even children, were better acquainted with the Bible teachings than were the priests and learned doctors. {GC 195.2}

As the Romish clergy saw their congregations diminishing, they invoked the aid of the magistrates, and by every means in their power endeavored to bring back their hearers. But the people had found in the new teachings that which supplied the wants of their souls, **and they turned away from those who had so long fed them with the worthless husks of superstitious rites and human traditions.** {GC 196.1}

In vain both ecclesiastical and civil authorities were invoked to crush the heresy. In vain they resorted to imprisonment, torture, fire, and sword. Thousands of believers sealed their faith with their blood, and yet the work went on. Persecution served only to extend the truth, and the fanaticism which Satan endeavored to unite with it resulted in making more clear the contrast between the work of Satan and the work of God. {GC 196.3}