CHURCH RISING

Sooner or later, final events will begin to unfold. We have not been told exactly when and how, but we have been told enough. Some kind of legislation enforcing Sunday-keeping in contrast to Sabbath-keeping will be passed. Revelation has revealed to us the crucial issues at stake, the crucial players involved, and, in broad sweeps, has depicted what will happen when instead of worshiping of the One “who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water” (Rev. 14:7), people—all “whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world” (Rev. 13:8)—will worship the beast and his image. In other words, the names of all who have chosen to follow the Lord Jesus Christ and obey His commandments will remain in the book of life. How much better to be in the register of God than in the records of man!

God has raised up the Seventh-day Adventist Church to preach this message to the world. We therefore need to be believers of the truth as it is in Jesus, and we need to have been transformed and made new by the “everlasting gospel” of Revelation 14:6, which is centered on Christ’s death for us, the assurance of our salvation in Him.
Write out Revelation 18:1–4 from the translation of your choice. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, or outline or mind-map it.
Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

**Circle** repeated words/ phrases/ideas

**Underline** words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you

Draw **Arrows** to connect words/ phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?

Memorize your favorite verse.
Write it out multiple times to help with memorization.

What does 1 Thessalonians 5:6’s “not sleep, as others do” mean?

How do you know if you’re sleeping? What will it take to wake us?

Read more at
www.inversebible.org/3am13-3
After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks seem to point to overall?

What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

Whose authority are you following now? How do you know?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/3am13-4
What relationship do the following verses have with Revelation 18?

John 7:17; 8:32; 17:17
Habakkuk 2:14
1 Thessalonians 5:1–6
Revelation 4:11; 5:6, 12; 19:1
Exodus 33:18, 19

What other narratives come to mind in connection with Revelation 18?

Review your memorized verse from Revelation 18
Why is keeping the slain Lamb at the center of our message crucial not only for leading others to it but also for your own spiritual life?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

Prayer Response:

Meditate on this week’s passage again and look for where Jesus is.
Review the memory verse. How does it apply to your life this week?

After this week’s study of the passage, how can you summarize it?

What are your practical conclusions after the study of the whole topic?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/3am13-7
Share insights from this week’s memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.

How do you understand Jesus’ words “the truth shall make you free”? What does it mean to be free in this context?

How do the issues in the last days ultimately come down to authority?

What are the implications of the glory of God filling the earth?

When does obedience become legalism? How can we guard against that?

In what ways can someone who doesn’t keep the commandments of God still be a legalist?

What answer can you give to those who criticize talking about the beasts and warnings in Revelation (besides the obvious answer that they’re in the Bible)?

How do we strike a balance between being aware of the times and not getting caught up in speculation?